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HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

TOWN OF FISHKILL,

N.Y.

FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT.

BY T. VAN WYCK BRINCKERHOFF.

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FISHKILL LANDING:

DEAN & SPAIGHT, PUBLISHERS.

1866.

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HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

Town of Fishkill.

BY T. VAN WYCK BRINKERHOFF.

To present anything more than a brief sketch or outline of some prominent historic incidents connected with the Town of Fishkill, is all that will be attempted in this article, designed to accompany the forthcoming new and first Directory of the Town.

That such a work, in a town containing, it is true, large and flourishing manufacturing interests, beautiful and thriving villages; but nevertheless all of them so disconnected from each other, should already have received so large and liberal a subscription in advance of its publication, speaks well for the public spirit and enterprise of its inhabitants.

The Town of Fishkill embraces within its present boundaries, the south western portion of Dutchess county. The Hudson River flows along its western side, and the County of Putnam bounds its southern borders. It is situated sixty miles due north from New York City. The Hudson River and the Hudson River Railroad both afford easy and speedy access to the commercial emporium of the whole country. The Boston, Hartford and Erie Railroad will soon, it is believed, pass through the Town, having its most important depot at its connection with the Hudson River Railroad, on the east shore of the river. For beauty of scenery, salubrity of climate, fertility of soil, richness and productiveness of its farms and manufactories, it may not be deemed invidious to say that it is unsurpassed, if indeed equaled, by any other section of the country, however favored. Pleasure seekers have been charmed with its mountains and vallies. Invalids have breathed its pure mountain air, and been refreshed with a new life. No pestilential nor noxious diseases infest its borders. The character too and enterprise of its inhabitants are justly deserving of consideration.— For it may be borne in mind that whatever natural advantages any

country may possess, the men *make* the country and not the country the men.

The early history of the Town of Fishkill is connected with the general history of the county, and can only be reached by resolving some of the changes which it has undergone. This is in fact its history.

Its history anterior to 1682 belongs to the red men of the country. There is no positive knowledge that up to this time any white man had ever set foot upon its soil.

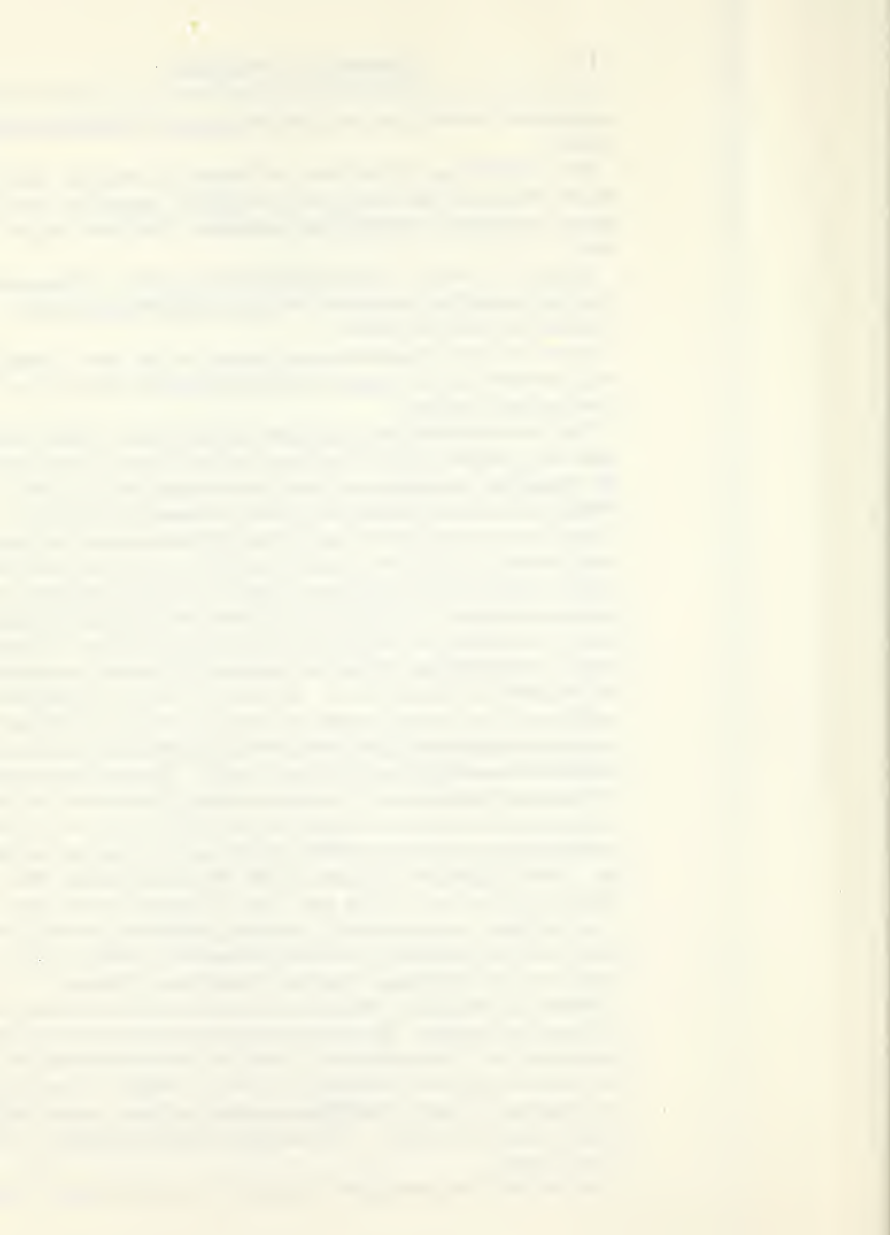
Before passing to notice the early history of the Town it may be well to remark that this section had been the favorite home of the red men, probably for ages.

This, too, more than any other spot, was the home of their Priests. Here they performed their incantations and ministered at their Altars. Mr. Broadhead thus alludes to them in his history of New York: "It would seem that the neighboring indians esteemed the peltries of the Fishkill as charmed by the incantations of the aboriginal enchanters who lived along its banks, and the beautiful scenery in which those ancient Priests of the Highlands dwelt is thus invested with new poetic associations." Dunlap, in his history of New York, speaks of them as occupying the Highlands, called by them Kittatenny Mountains. Their principal settlement, designated Wicapee, was situated in the vicinity of Antony's Nose. Here, too, lived the Wappingers, a warlike and brave tribe, extending themselves along the Matteawan, along the Wappingers Kill and tributaries, along the Hudson, and to the northward crossed the river into Ulster county. These and other tribes to the south, west and north were parts of and tributaries to the great Iroquois Confederation—the marvel for all time to come of a system of government so wise and politic, and for men so eloquent and daring. The Wappingers took part in the Dutch and Indian Wars of 1643 and 1663, led on by their war chiefs, Wapperonk and Aepjen.

A few indian names are still remaining, and a few traces of their history still left standing. The name Matteawan is indian. It is the indian name of the stream, signifying "Good Beaver Ground."

The name Wappinger still tells of the lords that once owned the soil along the Hudson. The indian name of the stream, however, was Mawamassigh or Mawenawasigh. Wicapee and Shenondoah are indian names of places in Fishkill Hook and East Fishkill. Apoquague, now denoting a country Post Office, was then the indian name of what is now called Silver Lake. The meaning in indian signifying "The Round Pond."


In Fishkill Hook, until quite recently, there were traces of their



burial grounds, and many apple and pear trees are still left standing, set there by the hands of the red man before the country had been occupied by Europeans.

In closing this part of our subject, we subjoin a deposition made by David Nimham, a Wappinger indian, touching boundaries of tribes, &c.

DAVID NIMHAM, aged thirty-six years, being duly sworn, maketh oath, that he is a river indian, of the tribe of the Wappingers, which tribe were the ancient inhabitants of the east shore of Hudson's River, from the City of New York to about the middle of Beckman's Patent; that another of river indians, called Mahiccondas, were the ancient inhabitants of the remaining east shore of the said river: that these two tribes constituted one nation. That the deponent well understands the language of the Mahiccondas. It is very little different from the language of the Wappingo tribe. That the indian word Pattenock signifies in the language of the Mahiccondas, a fall of water, and has no other signification. And this deponent says that he is a Christian, and has resided some years with the Mahiccondas at Stockridge.

His
DAVID  NIMHAM.
Mark.

Sworn the second day of August, 1762, before me.

WILLIAM SMITH.

Having thus noticed briefly the indian history of the town, we now proceed to notice the patent and subsequent settlement.

The first purchase of land in the County of Dutchess was made in the town of Fishkill. On the 28th day of February, 1682, a license was given by Thomas Dongan, Commander in Chief of the Province of New York, to Francis Rombout and Gulian Ver Planck, to purchase a tract of land from the indians. Under this license they bought on the 8th day of August, 1683, of the Wappinger indians all their right, title and interest to a certain large tract of land, afterward known as the Rombout Precinct. Gulian Ver Planck died before the English Patent was issued by Gov. Dongan. Stephanus Van Cortland was then joined in it with Rombout, and Jacobus Kipp substituted as the representative of the children of Gulian Ver Planck. On the 17th day of October, 1685, letters patent, under the broad seal of the Province of New York, were granted by King James the Second, and the parties



to whom these letters patent were granted, became from that time the undisputed proprietors of the soil. There were 76,000 acres of these lands lying in Fishkill and other towns taken from the patent, and 9,000 acres lying in the limits of the town of Poughkeepsie. Besides paying the natives, as a further consideration for the privilege of their license, they were to pay the Commander in Chief, Thomas Dongan, six bushels of good and merchantable winter wheat every year.

We are happy in being able to present the subscribers to the Directory, with a copy of the original indian deed of the town. It has never before been published, and may well deserve their attention. We are indebted to W. M. R. ADDINGTON, of the State Treasury Department, for a copy of this old deed. Mr. ADDINGTON obtained it by persisting in his search for it, after repeated failures.

BOOK OF PATENTS, VOL. 5, PAGE 72.

The following Indian Deed of Sale, Recorded for Mr. Francis Rumbout and Gulyne Ver Planke, the 14th day of August, 1683:

TO ALL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE TO WHOM THIS PRESENT WRITING SHALL COME, Sackoraghkigh for himselfe, and in the name of Megriesken, Sachem of the Wappinger Indians, Queghsjehapaein, Niessjawejahos, Queghout, Asotews, Wappegereck, Nathindaeniw, Wappappee, Ketaghkainis, Meakhaghoghkan, Mierham, Peapightapeieuw, Queghitaeuw, Minesawogh, Katariogh, Kightapiuhogh, Rearowogh, Meggrek, Sejay, Wienangeck, Maenemanew, and Ginghstyeren, true and Lawful Owners and Indian Proprietors of the Land herein Mentioned, send Greeting, KNOW YE!—that for and in Consideracon of a Certain Summe or Quantity of Money, Wampum, and diverse other Goods in a Schedull herunto Annexed Perticularly Menconed and Expered to them the said Indians, in Hand Payed by Mr. Francis Rumbouts and Gulyne Ver Planke, both of the City of New York, Merchants, the Receipt whereof they, the said Indians, Doe hereby Acknowledge, and therewith ownes themselves to be fully payed, Contented and Sattisfied, and thereof and of every Parte and Parcell Doe hereby Acquitt, Exonerate and Discharge them, the said Francis Rumbouts and Gulyne V. Planke, their Heires and Assignes, have Given, Granted, Bargained, Sold, Aliened, Enfeoffd, and Confirmed, and by these Presents Doe fully Cleerly and Absoltely Give, Grant, Bargaine, Sell, and Alien, Enfeoffe, and Confirme unto the said Francis Rumbout and Gulyne Ver Planke, All that Tract or Parcell of Land Seituate, Lyeing and being on the East side of Hudson's River,

at the north side of the High Lands, Beginning from the South side of A Creek Called the fresh Kill, and by the Indians Matteawan, and from thence Northward along said Hudson's River five hund^d Rodd bejond the Great Wapping Kill, Called by the Indians Mawenawasigh, being the Northerly Bounds, and from thence into the Woods fouer Houers goeing, alwayes Keeping five hund^d Rodd Distant from the North side of said Wapinges Creeke, however it Runns, as alsoe from the said fresh Kill or Creeke called Matteawan, along the said fresh Creeke into the Woods att the foot of the said High Hills, including all the Reed or Low Lands at the South side of said Creeke, with an Easterly Line fouer Houers going into the Woods, and from thence Northerly to the end of the fouer Houers Goeing or Line Drawne att the North side of the five hund^d Rodd Bejoyond the Greate Wappinger Creek or Kill called Mawenawasigh, together with all the Lands, Soyles, Meadows, both fresh and Salt Pastures, Commons, Wood, Land, Marshes, Rivers, Rivoletts, Streams, Creekes, Waters, Lakes, and whatsoever else to the said Tract or Parcell of Land within the Bounds and Limitts aforesaid is Belonging, or any wise Appurteneing, without any Reservacon of Herbage, Trees, or any other thing Growing or Being thereupon, To have and to hold the said Tract or Parcell of Land, Meadow, Ground, and Primisses, with their and every of their Appurtennees, and all the Estate, Right, Title, Interest, Clayme and Demand of them the said Indian Proprietors, and each and every of them, of, in, and to, the same, and Every Parte thereof, unto them the said francis Rumbout and Gulyne Ver Planke, their Heires and Assignes, to the Sole and only Proper use, Benefitt and Behoofo of them, the said francis Rumbout and Gulyne Ver Planke, *their* Heires and Assignes for Ever, And they the said Indians Doe for themselves and their Heires and every of them Covenant, Promise, and Engage that the said francis Rumbout and Gulyne Ver Planke, their Heires and Assignes, shall and may from henceforth for ever Lawfully, Peaceably, and Quettly have, hold, Possesse, and Enjoye the said Tract or Parcell of Land, and all and Singuler other the Primisses, with their Appertences without any Lett, Hindrance, or Interrupcon whatsoever of or by them, the said Indians, Proprietors or their Heires, or of any other Person or Persons whatsoever clayming or that hereafter shall or may Clayme, by, from, or under them, or Either of them, And that they shall and will, upon the reasonable Request and Demand made by the said Francis Rumbouts and Gulyne Ver Planke, Give and Deliver Peaceably and Quietly Possession of the said Tract or Parcell of Land and Primisses, or of some Parte thereof, for and in the Name of the whole, unto such Person or Persons as by the said francis Rumb-

bout and Gulyne Ver Planke, shall be Appointed to Receive the same. *In Witnesse whereof*, the said Sackoraghkigh, for himselfe and in the Name of Megriskar, Sachem of Wappinger Indians, Queghsjehapeienw, Niessjawejhos, Queghout, Asotewes, Wappegereck, Nathindaew, Wappape, Ketaghkannus, Meakaghoghkan, Mierham, Peapightapaeuw, Queghhitaew, Memesawogh, Katariogh, Kightapinkog, Rearawogh, Meggiech, Sejay, Wienangeck, Maenemaew, Guighstierm, the Indian Owners and Proprietors afores^d, have hereunto sett their Hands and Seales in N. Yorke, the Eighth Day of August, in the 35th Yeare of his Maties Reigne, Anno Dom, 1683.

The marke of } SAKORAGHUCK, [L.S.]

The marke of X QUEGHSJEHAPAEIW, [L.S.]

Signed Sealed and Delivered
in the psen of us

ANTHO: BROCKHOLLS,

P. V. COURTLANDT,

JOHN WEST.

The marke of CLAES the Indian X Inter. [VERITE.]

The marke of a MERHAM, [L.S.]

The marke of & PEAPIGHITAPAEW, [L.S.]

The marke of 7 QUEGHHITAEMW, [L.S.]

The marke of 8 MEINESAWOGH, [L.S.]

The marke of O KOTARIOGH, [L.S.]

The marke of O KIGHTAPINKOJH, [L.S.]

The marke of ~ REAROWOGH, [L.S.]

The marke of 9 MEGGENKSEJAY, [L.S.]

The marke of O WIENARGECK, [L.S.]

The marke of O MAENEMANEW, [L.S.]

The marke of 2 GUIGHSTJEREM, [L.S.]

The marke of (- KETAGHKANNES, [L.S.]

The marke of V MEAKHAJH, [L.S.]

The marke of O OGHKAN, [L.S.]

The marke of X NIESSJAWEJAHOS, [L.S.]

The marke of X QUEGHOUT, [L.S.]

The marke of X SJOTEWES, [L.S.]

The marke of X WAPPEGERECK, [L.S.]

The marke of X NATHINDAEUW, (L.S.)

The marke of X WAPPAPE, (L.S.)

A schedull or Perticuler of Money, Wampum and other goods Paid by francis Rumbout and Gulyne Ver Planke for the purchase of the Land in the Deed hereunto annexed.

One hund^d Royalls,
 One hund^d Pound Powder,
 Two hund^d fathom of White Wampum,
 one hund Barrs of Lead,
 One hundred fathom of black Wampum,
 thirty tobacco boxes ten holl adges,
 thirty Gunns, twenty Blankets,
 forty fathom of Duffills.
 twenty fathom of stroudwater Cloth.
 thirty Kittles, forty Hatchets.
 forty Hornes, forty Shirts.
 forty p stockings, twelve coates of R. B. & b. C.
 ten Drawing Knives.
 forty earthen Juggs.
 forty Bottles.
 forty Knives, fouer ankers rum.
 ten halfe, fatts Beere.
 two hund^d tobacco Pipes, &c.
 Eighty Pound Tobacco.

New York, August the 8th, 1683.

The above Particulars were Delivered to the Indians in the Bill of Sale Menconed in the psence of us

ANTHO: BROCKHALLS,
 P. V. COURTLANDT,
 JOHN WEST.

I do hereby certify the aforegoing to be a true copy of the Original Record, compared therewith by me.

LEWIS A. SCOTT, Secretary.

Having thus given the boundaries of the Rombout Patent, we will next notice the original dimensions of the Comnty of Dutchess, and of the sub-divisions.

Dutchess was one of the original ten counties formed in 1683. By act of the Legislature, its boundaries are thus defined in the third year of the reign of WILLIAM and MARY, 1691. "The Dutchess County to be from the bounds of the County of Westchester on the south side of the Highlands, along the east side of Hudson's River, as far as Roeloffe Jansen's Creek, and eastward into the woods *twelve* miles."—Roeloffe Jansen's creek was situated near the centre of our neighboring county of Columbia. It will thus be observed that the Patent was

too wide for the county. By further act of the Legislature passed in the reign of WILLIAM the Third, on the 18th day of October, 1701, Dutchess County was annexed to Ulster for the term of seven years. Provision being made "for the freeholders in Dutchess County, to give their votes in the County of Ulster, as if they actually lived in said county." In the twelfth year of the reign of QUEEN ANN, on the 23d day of October, 1715, an act was passed "for Dutchess County to elect a Supervisor, a Treasurer, Assessors and Collectors." Up to this time no election had been held in Dutchess County. This arrangement continued in force until 1719, when the county was divided into three Districts or Wards, called the Middle, Northern, and Southern Wards, with power to choose a Supervisor in each. After 1737 these wards were again sub-divided into seven precincts, with power to elect a Supervisor and Town Officers in each, and this provision was coupled with the act, "That the *wages* of each Supervisor shall not exceed *three shillings for each day*." It will already have been noticed that the Patentees came in full possession of their purchase in the Fall of 1685. Possession and occupancy do not always join hands in new purchases. Several years must therefore have elapsed before any real settlement was made on the Patent. In fact twenty-five years after, in 1710, there were but very few families located on the Patent. Not certainly to exceed a dozen.

No positive dates of occupancy can be determined from authentic records before 1708; and the reason why, is that up to this time on account of minor children no title could have been given. In 1708, however, a partition by writ of the Supreme Court was made of all the lands between the Fishkill and Wappinger's Creek; the rest, north and south of these streams, remaining in common. We are left therefore to conjecture a little as to the *time of first actual settlement*; but will avoid this by stating undoubted facts and leave this privilege to others.

On the Tenth of January, 1709, ROGER BRETT and CATHERNE, his wife, gave their joint bond to Captain GYLOB SHELLEY, of New York City, for the sum of three hundred ninety-nine pounds and six shillings. This bond soon falling due, and not having been paid, on the 3rd day of June, 1713, they gave a mortgage deed to ROBERT WATTS and ROBERT SURTING, executors of GYLOB SHELLEY, covering all their part of the division between the two streams. Their allotment being the southernmost part, or the part covering mainly the Fishkill settlement. "Excepting and reserving always out of the said premises, one tenement, grist-mill and water course thereunto belonging, together with 300 acres of land adjoining the said mill, now or late in possession

of said ROGER BRETT, or his assigns, and *also*, 150 acres now or late in possession of JOHN TERBOSS; 100 acres of such land, now or of late in possession of JOHN BUYS; 100 acres of said land now or late in possession of CASPER PRIME; 80 acres of said land, now or late in possession of PETER DE BOYS; 60 acres of said land, now or late in possession of YOWREB SPRINGSTEAD. *Also*, five thousand acres lying and being in any part of the hereby reserved premises."

And inasmuch as these are the only persons named in the Mortgage Deed; the inference is that few, if any others, were occupying lands on the Patent. Having therefore this basis of facts, the reader can tell as well as any one, when the *first settlement was made*. The money loaned by ROGER BRETT and his wife was no doubt used by them in erecting a house and building a grist-mill the following year.

This enterprise deserves a passing notice. A grist-mill now has no very especial features of interest. It would have great charms now if we were depending solely upon one single mill for our daily bread. How different then must have been the grist-mill to the new settlement. It highly commends the enterprise and liberality of the patentee that he should so soon make provision for the wants of the young and weak community. It was the first mill built in Dutchess County, and for a long time Orange county paid tribute to MADAME BRETT'S Mill, for by this name it was known, far and wide over the country. Roads terminated there, "From Wiccopee to Madame Brett's Mill." "From Hackensak to Madame Brett's Mill." A few years since an old gentleman in Orange County stated this circumstance:

His Grand Father had told him when he was a boy how he used to go to Madame Brett's Mill. That was then the only Mill to which they had access. The neighbors and settlers for miles would come with a bag of grain fastened securely upon the back of a horse. When they had all arrived, the horses were tied to each other's tails, and mounting the foremost one he wended his way to the river. With an indian canoe he would carry over the grain and when ground return home again in the same manner.

We pass now from the first grist-mill of the town to the first freighting partnership established in the Town. Though the contract is somewhat lengthy, yet probably satisfactory nevertheless to many, we will insert it in full. There seems properly to be a connection between milling and freighting, and on that account we mention it here.

TO ALL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE to whom this present writing shall or may concern: Jacobus Terbos of Rhombout's Precinct, in

Dutchess Co., and Province of New York, yeoman : Cornelius Van Wyck of same place, yeoman ; James Duncan of the same place, merchant ; John Brinckerhoff of the same place, yeoman ; Isaac Brinckerhoff of the same place, yeoman ; Catherine Brett, of the same place, widdow ; Theodore Van Wyck of the same place, yeoman ; John Carman of the same place, yeoman ; Jacob Brinckerhoff of the same place, yeoman ; Cornelius Wiltzie of the same place, yeoman ; John Carman of the same place, yeoman ; Abraham Bloom of the same place, yeoman ; Benjamin Hasbrook of the same place, yeoman ; Theodore Van Wyck, junior, of the same place, yeoman ; George Adriance of the same place, yeoman ; Abraham Adriance of the same place, yeoman ; Thomas Storm of Westchester County and province aforesaid, yeoman ; Lawrence Losee of Rhombouts Precinct in Dutchess County, and province aforesaid, yeoman ; Joshua Carman of the same place, yeoman ; John Van Vlanckerau of the same place, blacksmith,

SEND GREETING, Whereas the several and respective persons herein above mentioned do for them and each of them severally, and for each of their several and respective heirs and executors, administrators and assigns, agree to and with each other to stand and abide by what is written in following manner and form, viz : Whereas the persons above mentioned have lately bought a lot of land of Francis Brett, in Rhombout Precinct, in County and Province above said, which said land binds on the north river and said Brett's land, commonly called Willet's Landing, containing about eleven acres one quarter and nine square rods, according to survey, be it more or less, and Whereas the several persons first above named have purchased the same, these presents WITNESS that we, the partners first above mentioned, whose hands and seals are hereunto set, do hereby fully, freely and unanimously agree with each other to have a large store house built, with a dwelling house adjoining, or near the same, and for the speedy carrying the said building on, we do hereby unanimously agree that it shall be decided by the majority of the said partners, according to their several rights, that is he that has two shares shall have the privilege of two votes ; he that hath one share one vote, and they to whom a share is divided shall be obliged to join their votes together as but one vote.

For the true performance, they bind themselves, each of their heirs, executors and assigns, in the penalty of 40 pounds.

In witness whereof, the partners above named have interchangeably set their hand and seals, this day of February in the sixteenth year of his Majesties reign, 1742.

Jacobus Terbos, [L.S.]

John Carman, [L.S.]

Cornelius Van Wyck, [L.S.]

Abraham Bloom, [L.S.]

James Duncan, [L.S.]

Benjamin Hasbrook, [L.S.]

John Brinckerhoff, [L.S.]

Theodoras Van Wyck, jr. [L.S.]

Isaac Brinckerhoff, [L.S.]

Jores Adriance, [L.S.]

Thomas Storms, [L.S.]

Jan Van Vleckeren, [L.S.]

Theodoras Van Wyck, [L.S.]

Josha Carman, [L.S.]

Jacob Brinckerhoff, [L.S.]

Abraham Adriance, [L.S.]

Cornelius Willsie, [L.S.]

Larus. Losee, [L.S.]

Sealed and delivered in
presence of

JOHN WRIGHT,

JONATHAN LANGDON.

We presume this to be the first organized freighting establishment in the county.

We have before spoken of the difficulty of obtaining actual data prior to the period of 1768, during the twenty-three years immediately following the purchase of the soil.

This same difficulty continued in force on the Ver Planck portion of the division until 1722, on account of minor children, when it was again divided. One third of the Ver Planck portion was apportioned to Andrew Teller, son and only child of Henrietta Verplanck, and was sold by his executors about 1740. Settlement therefore was begun on the Verplanck portion of the division subsequent to the Rombout and Van Courtland sections. To throw some additional light upon this period, we submit a few further Legislative enactments in reference to Dutchess County. In 1687 the Governor and Council levied a tax of a half penny on every pound out of the estates of the freeholders of Dutchess County. On the 10th day of September, 1692, passed a further act, "To raise 80 men out of Dutchess and Ulster to protect Albany from indians during the winter. "In 1713, "Empowered Dutchess Co. to elect a Supervisor, Assessor, and Collector;" and in 1717 gave Dutchess County the privilege of erecting a county-house and prison. The manor of Livingston was then detached from Dutchess, and joined to Albany.

Previous to 1718 there were no records kept in Dutchess County.—Whatever records may have been kept prior to this time have been lost, and we have been unable in Ulster County records to find anything covering this period.

If we assume that settlement commenced in the town as early as

1635, then it is now over 170 years ago. The Cities of Newburgh and Poughkeepsie together contain now more of a population than the whole State of New York did then. One of the first instruments on record in the county is dated on the 26th day of December, 1718.

This was a conveyance by Nicholas Van DerBogart for the purpose, as the record states, "to build and maintain a proper meeting-house to worship the one and only God, according to the tenets and methods as it is concluded by the Synod National kept at Dordrecht in 1618 and '19, and that in the nedder Dutch lingo, as it is now used by the classis of Amsterdam." A few deeds on record date back to 1704.—There is also a receipt from Abraham Buys of 3 pounds, 19 shillings, and 2 pence, "pursuant to an act of the general assembly to promote trade with the indians, and for securing the Six Nations in his Majesty's service." There is also an account of some bounties. "To Krickes the Indian, for a wolf's head." Another to Simon Coole, and yet another to Capt. Barnard Van Cleek, "for a wolf killed by Percemin the Indian."

In 1714 Dutchess County contained a population of 445. There were 67 heads of families at the time when the census was taken. On account of the fewness of their number we herewith subjoin a list of their names. They richly deserve a place, for they were the pioneers of this section of the country, and throughout the adjacent settlements:

Jacob Kip,	Garret Van Vleit,
Jacob Plowgh,	William Outen,
Martieis Sleght,	Frans De Langen,
Andreis Dairedes,	James Husey,
Peter Palmater,	William Tetsort,
Roger Brett,	Isaac Hendricks,
Hendrick Pells,	John Kip,
John Brames,	Peck DeWit,
Elena Van DeBogart,	John De Grase,
Cellittie Kool,	Bartholems Hoogenboom,
Baltus Van Kleeck,	Johannes Dyckman, Sienjer,
Jacob Hoghtelingh,	Barent Van Kleeck,
John Ostrom,	Willem Schot,
Jacob Vosburgh,	Meindert Van Den Bogart,
Johanes Van Kleeck,	Henderick Bidsiert,
Roeliff Daytser,	Swart Van Wagenen,
Henry Van Der Burgh,	Abraham Vosburgh,
Abraham Van Dusen,	Thomas Sanders,
Catrine Lasink Nedo,	Lourens Kuickerbacker,

Aenderis Gerdener,	Henderk Sissum,
Mellen Springsteen.	John Buys,
Johnes Terbots,	Evert Van Wageneu,
Abraham Buys,	Whilliam Ostrander,
Lawrans Ostrout,	Harmen Rinders,
Aret Masten,	Tunis Pieterse,
Maghell Pallmater,	Lenar Le Roy,
Peter De Boyes,	Johannis Spoor, Junjoor,
Peter Vely,	Elias Van Bunchoten,
Jeurey Sprinsten,	Willem Wijt,
Adan Van Alsted,	Peter Lasink,
Leonard Lewis,	—ey Scouten,
Harmen Knickerbacker.	Gysbert Oosterhout,
Frans LeRoy,	Johannis Dyckman, Junjor.
Direk Wesselse,	

The first tax book bears date Jan. 17th, 1717. The amount of property liable to taxation in the North Ward was £426, upon which there was a tax levied of £19, 19s, 4½d; in the Middle Ward the property taxed amounted to £554, the tax levied £33, 9s, 6½d. In the South Ward, the property taxed £320, the tax levied £19, 6s, 7d.

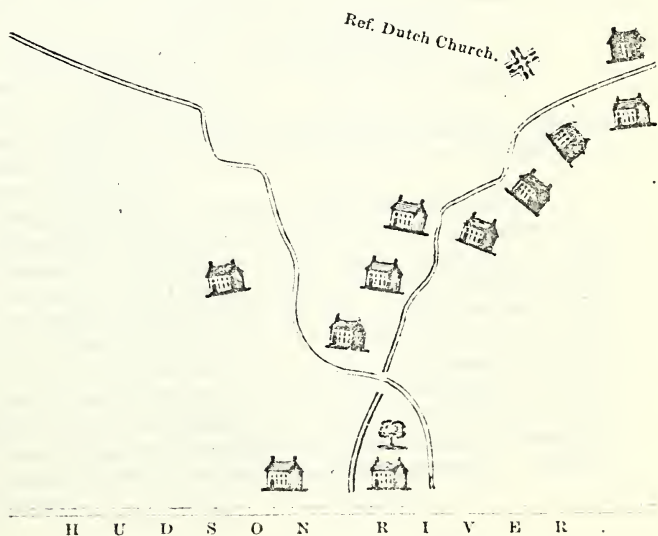
In 1723 there were one hundred and ninety-five taxable inhabitants in the county. Of these 47 were taxable in the South Ward. At this time quite a number of new names are introduced. Among them are the Mousiers, Lassinks, Lownsberrys, Schoutens, Walderns, Dinges, &c. The whole amount of property liable to taxation amounted to £543, and the tax levied amounted to £27, 3s.

In this year Jacobus Swartwout was elected Supervisor; Peter Du-bois and Thomas Ter Boos, Assessors; John De Larger and Jacob Ter boos, Overseers of King's Highway; John Buys and Garret Van Vleit, Overseers of Fences.

In the Colonial General Assembly the South Ward at this time was represented by Johannis Terbosch. He was first elected in 1716, and continued in office until 1723. Leonard Lewis had before this been elected to fill the same position, in 1713, but resided in the Middle Ward. Previous to this, members from Ulster had represented Dutchess, Henry Beckman, Jacob Ruston and others. Members to the Colonial General Assembly then received six shillings a day for their services. Supervisors, however, were not so liberally paid.—They received less compensation, but were like other Legislative bodies, disposed to allow other necessary expenses, as for instance, "To Trynte Van Kleeck, widow, for victualling the assessors and

supervisors, justices and clerk, sider, shugar and candles 13s, 9d." "To Col. Leonard Lewis for two gallons of rum for assessors and supervisors. 9s," &c.

It is a relief often times to see things with the eye rather than to wade through long chapters of dull history. There is this advantage, too, attending it, that we catch with the eye at once what we otherwise might not perceive. We submit therefore to the reader a view of the City of Poughkeepsie, in 1736. The change will readily be noticed; but the same change to a greater or less extent, not only pervades other parts of the county, but all over the land. Schenectady then lay upon the outer borders of civilization, and deep forests lay beyond and closed in around the river settlements.



The reader will notice the Dutch Church, standing conspicuously upon the rising ground, and the dozen houses scattered along the

sloping hill-side between there and the river. On to the north, if the map were extended, he would notice near the river, the residence of **BALTUS VAN KLEAR**, near the mouth of a stream called Fish Creek or Crnyn Elboogh. Directly east of Baltus was the residence of **JOHN EDWARDS**, and further up the stream two other houses without designated owners. Out upon the Wappinger, directly east, and standing solitary and alone, was the house of **JOHN ALLINS**. The Nine Partner tract lay out beyond this, sub-divided into tracts without an occupant, or but one or two at most. Such in brief is an outline given by this old Map of 1736, of this now populous and beautiful section of our county.

We had hoped also in this connection to have given a Map of the village of Fishkill, of the same period. The Map has been mislaid. It would have made much poorer show upon paper than the shire town of the county does. There would not have been enough of it to have made it a neighborly farming community.

The forty-seven taxable inhabitants in 1723 had increased to 71 in 1730, thus showing an increase of 24 in seven years.

JACOBUS DE PYSTER was their Supervisor.

JOHANNAS TER BOSS, **JACOBUS SWARTWOUT**, Assessors.

JOHN BRINCKERHOFF, Clerk.

FRANCIS DRAKE, Surveyor of King's Highway, through Highlands.

JOHN SCHOUTEN, Surveyor along the road from Wappingers to Madame Brett's Mill.

CORNELIUS BOGARDUS, Surveyor of Madame Brett's Bridge.

The period of 1740 was one of much progress and improvement.—The population increased more rapidly than at any prior time. There are several places still standing which date back to about this time. The old house of brick and stone near the mouth of the creek, formerly or now owned by the Newlins, was built by Madame Brett in 1740, as the date cut in the wall shows. Part of the homestead house of the Ver Plancks, on the river, was built a little before 1740. The residence of Hon. **ISAAC TELLER**, dates back to nearly the same period. The names attached to the following petition will give a better idea of the accession to the population and who composed it. The petition states:

"WE WHOSE NAMES are hereunto subscribed, being freeholders and inhabitants, have agreed and consented that the highway that used to run from Weapee along the south side of the Fishkill, should be



altered and turned over said Fishkill at east end of Judge Ter Bushes' land, in the county road leading along the north side of the Fishkill." The petition having reference to the present Hook road, in front of Mathew Brinkerhoff's. Petitioning to change it from passing on the south side of the creek to the north side. The petition further states, "That we are fully of opinion that the altering and turning of said road again beyond the new bridge, along the south side of the said Fishkill, proceeds from a private view of malice to keep up party contention and division among the neighbors and to damage some particular persons, than from any real intention to serve anybody either private or public, and this we freely and sincerely declare, in Dutchess Co., Aug. ye first, 1739."

Jacobus Swarwout,

^{His}
John \times Schouten,
^{Mark.}

Symon Schouten,

Johaannis Wiltzie,

^{His}
Johanes \times Sorin,
^{Mark.}

^{His}
Jarry \times Schouten,
^{Mark.}

Garret Nooststrand,

Peter Monfoort,

Phillip Smith,

William Drake,

Henerick Rosecrans,

Theod. Van Wyck,

Sammuel Hallsted,

Stephen Ladoac,

John Montross, \checkmark

Jan Van Vleckeren,

Francis Brett,

^{his}
Johannis \times Middowe,
^{Mark.}

Masten Schenck,

George Brinckerhoff,

Jacob Brinckerhoff,

Robert Brett,

^{his}
William \times Leston,
^{Mark.}

Chamas Hanve,

Johanis Brevort,

Aendris Schenten,

Wikham Broriwn,

Wm. Ver Planck,

Benjamin Roe,

Henderick Van Tossell,

Willem Suchat,

Tho. Stillwill,

Nathaniel Yeumung,

Henry Wright,

Benjamin Hoybrock,

^{his}
Johanis \times Young,
^{Mark.}

Mare Ostrander,

^{his}
Peter \times Ostrander,
^{Mark}

Henry Monfort,

Joshaway Griffen,

John Flenwelling,

Cornelius Hegeman,

Johannis Roosenkraus,

Joseph Houson,

Direk Hegeman,

Isaih Dalsen,

Isaac Lossing,

Jacob De Beysteur,

John Mills,

Cornelius Wiltzie,

Tunis Schouten.

The reader will observe a good many names that are no longer represented by any of their descendents in the town, and will begin to think that we are overburdening him with names that he knows nothing of. These are the men, however, that made the early history of the town and every man of them is deserving of remembrance. They endured the hardships of the early settlement, battled with the forests, hardened themselves by privation and want, and by the sides of streams and hillsides built for themselves homes. More than a century ago many of them finished their work. One by one, surely and steadily, they were followed by others, and long years ago the last lingering ones have fallen. To every son of Fishkill, whether he be of the "Manor born" or one of her adopted sons: whether he inherit the blood of these men, or spring from other sires, it matters not. They are the fathers of the town, and because they are fathers in that relation, are they the fathers of us all—and deserving of remembrance.

In speaking of the early records of the county we have before noticed a deed of land that was conveyed for the purpose of building a Dutch Church at Poughkeepsie. We revert to this subject again and proceed to notice the early Churches in the town. The Churches in Poughkeepsie and Fishkill, from the most reliable information that can be obtained, were both of them organized in 1716. Previous to this organization there had no doubt been services performed, and occasional preaching in both of these parishes. This was the case at Hopewell prior to the Church organization. Services were held for the lack of better accommodations in barns. On one of these occasions, in a barn belonging to Mr. ISAAC STORM, of Stormville, the preacher was speaking of Beelzebub, asking the question, "Who is Balzebub?" A little Irishman, sitting in one of the leinters, thinking himself personally addressed, sprang to his feet and said, "Och, mon, that's usily toold by a mon of ch'racter; the high Praist of Hill, sir."

The Dutch Church at Poughkeepsie, was the first church that was built in Dutchess County. The exact year of building it is not so apparent. Probably, however, about 1720, or soon after. The Church of Fishkill was built in 1731. The petition to his excellency, John Montgomery, Esq., states "that the members of said congregation have agreed amongst themselves to erect and build a convenient church, to the public worship of God, nigh the said Fish Creek." The building of the church is not positively stated in this petition, but in a certain bond bearing date the same year it is clearly stated, that they "had agreed and built a church." There was a Glebe attached to the Church. This Glebe land was purchased in two different lots.

One lot "containing seven and almost a half acres," was purchased from Madame Brett. The other portion "containing three quarters of an acre and fifteen rods, with the appurtenancies, whereon to erect a church or house, for the service or worship of them in manner and form as aforesaid, for the inhabitants of the Fishkill or South Ward, and their heirs and assigns forever," was purchased from Johannis Terboss. The church of Fishkill was the first church built in the Rombout Patent.

For twenty years it was the only church in the Patent. It was attended on alternate Sabbath mornings, by people living far into the interior beyond Hopewell and Hackensack. For beside Poughkeepsie there was no other church, at that day on the east side of the Hudson above the Highlands, unless in the vicinity of Albany. Whenever, therefore, the preacher lifted his voice at Fishkill, it was the only voice, the only open pulpit in all that land.

Rev. Cornelius Van Schie, was the first pastor of the Churches of Fishkill and Poughkeepsie. He was duly installed over this field of labor on the 4th of Oct. 1731, removed to Albany in 1738. He was succeeded by Rev. Benjamin Meinema, the second pastor of the two Churches. His letter of recommendation by the Theological professor in Holland, is written in Latin, and speaks of him as having undergone the proper course of study, as a "praestantissimum juvenem," a most excellent young man. On this account the letter states, "I joyfully have wished to recommend him to the love and favor of all good men." Dated, 1727. He was called here in 1745, retired 1758, and died 9th of Sept., 1761. He was buried in the grounds adjoining the Church at Fishkill. Mr. Meinema, was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Van Nist, in Nov., 1758. But little is known of Mr. Van Nist. He only lived to retain his charge three years, and died in early manhood in 1761. He too was buried in the ground adjoining the church. Up to 1747, the Church at Fishkill was the only church edifice in the town, and together with that at Poughkeepsie, were the only Churches in the County. The increasing settlements made at Fishkill, the accession to the population from families who were attached to the English Church, as well as Presbyterian, began to make it manifest that other Churches were needed. Hopewell and New Hackensack, now more thickly settled, were beginning, too, to feel the need of public worship, nearer than Fishkill and Poughkeepsie. Church organizations, were therefore established in both of these places. At Hopewell in 1757, and at New Hackensack in 1758. These organizations were afterward associated with Poughkeepsie and Fishkill, and

so continued for years having one settled pastor in charge of all of them.

The *first* Presbyterian Church erected in the town being, also the first Presbyterian Church in the County, was erected at Brinckerhoffville, two miles east of Fishkill Village. It occupied the site of the one which has so recently and so unfortunately been burned to the ground.

From a manuscript in the hand writing of Rev. Mr. Clark, deceased, who appears to have made the early history of this Church, a subject of much inquiry, the following information is mostly obtained:

Tradition reports, says the Rev. Mr. Clark, that this congregation, was collected about the year 1746, by the Rev. Mr. Kent. In 1747, Sept. 17th and 18th, the frame of the Presbyterian Meeting-House, was raised and an acre of ground was given for that purpose by Jacobus Terboss, Esq. The condition of the grant was that the Church be organized in accordance with the order of the Kirk of Scotland. The first interment in the above lot was Susan, wife of Stephen Laddoe. This was on the 27th of Sept., 1747.

In July, 1748, the Meeting-House was enclosed, and temporary seats were laid on the 2d day of July, of the above year. The Rev. Mr. Graham, preached the first sermon in the new, but unfinished, Meeting-House. The Rev. Elisha Kent, who preached one half his time in this place, being present with Mr. Graham, the assembly agreed to gather a church in this place. The next day, July 3d, (Sabbath), after two sermons preached by Mr. Graham, four elders were elected, viz: Peter Monfort, William Drake, James Vidleurne and John Cwer, (perhaps others). Rev. Chauncey Graham was ordained pastor of this Church, in connection with the Church at Poughkeepsie. The parsonage lot was purchased in the year 1750. In Sept., 1752, Rev. Mr. Graham's connection with the Church at Poughkeepsie, was dissolved by the Presbytery of New York, regularly convened at Newark. The ground of this dissolution was the failure on the part of the Church at Poughkeepsie, to meet their pecuniary engagements. His whole time was then devoted to this Church.

In 1773, Mr. Graham left this Church, having been the Pastor twenty-three years. He died in 1784. From 1775 to 1783, the Church and congregation were greatly disturbed by the American Revolution.—For a time the place of worship was used as a hospital for the sick, so that the people enjoyed little ministerial service. In 1783, Rev. Isaac Blauvelt, Pastor of the Reformed Dutch Churches, of Fishkill and Hopewell, for two-thirds of his time, employed the other third in

this Presbyterian Church. His ministry continued seven or eight years. Rev. Mr. Marsh succeeded him preaching half of his time at Poughkeepsie, in 1791 or 92. Rev. Isaac Lewis succeeded him from 1797 to 1800. Rev. John Clark followed for two years, succeeded by Rev. Mr. Huntings.

The *third* Church erected in the town, the *first* one too, of its denominational character in the county, the first on the east side of the river above the Highlands, was the Trinity Church, at Fishkill Village. This Church is one of the oldest Church edifices in the State, older by many years than any other in the county. It had originally a towering spire of much beauty of appearances upon which was perched the invariable weather cock. Which said venerable bird is still flourishing, apparently as young as ever, on the premises of Mr. Catheal, in full sight of his more ancient perch. The interior arrangements are believed to be precisely the same as when at first erected. May they continue as many years more to hallow the future as they do now hallow the past with their sweet memories.

The early records of this Church are believed to have been lost during the Revolution. The time of the building of the Church cannot now be determined with entire certainty.

Rev. Dr. Brown of Newburgh, Hon. Gulian C. Verplanck and others, believe it to have been built about 1760.

We have been favored with a valuable communication from Rev. Dr. Buel, Rector of Christ Church of Poughkeepsie, and accept of the information he offers as the most reliable that can be now presented. We are indebted to the same gentleman for favoring us with the succession of the Rectorship in this Church. In reference to the building of the Church the Dr. furnishes a copy of a subscription paper "for the purchase of the Glebe in some convenient place in Poughkeepsie, Rombout, the Great Nine Partners, or Beekman," bearing date, April 2d, 1766. Which subscription furthermore distinctly states these words: "And inasmuch as there is not any settled church of England in the said county, by which means public worship, according to the Liturgie of the said Church, is altogether neglected." From this statement it would appear that there might not have been a Church edifice erected at that time in the County. The first services, says Dr. Buel, were held by Rev. Samuel Seabury, father of Bishop Seabury, in the year 1756. The account of his visit to the Society for the propagation of the gospel led them to agree to send a missionary to this county, when certain conditions were complied with. The conditions were that a church and residence should be built before

the missionary was sent. Accordingly Rev. John Beardsley, was appointed for the Precincts of Poughkeepsie, Beekman and Rombout, and accepted Oct. 26th, 1766.

Preached his first sermon at the house of William Humfrey, in Beekman, Dec. 21st, 1766, from Luke 2d, 32d. Trinity Church and Christ Church, Poughkeepsie, were united under one Rector for a period of nearly fifty years. A controversy between these two churches, grew out of this union, about the Glebe, situated at Poughkeepsie, which they owned together, which was finally adjusted Jan. 2d, 1797. Rev. Mr. Beardsley was removed to New York, Dec. 16th, 1777, by order of the Council of Safety.

The next Rector was Rev. Henry Van Dyck, who accepted Jan. 22d, 1787, dividing his time equally between the two Churches. He continued Rector until the spring of 1791, and was succeeded by the Rev. George H. Spierca, Nov. 12th, 1792.

Mr. Spierca left Dec. 9th, 1795, and was succeeded by Rev. John J. Sayers, Jan. 5th, 1795, who continued in the Rectorship two years. Mr. Sayers was succeeded by Rev. Philander Chase, afterward Bishop of Ohio and also of Illinois, and the founder of two Colleges, Kenyan College, Gambier, Ohio, and Jubilee College in Illinois. Mr. Chase came in 1794, and left for New Orleans, in 1795. Rev. Barzillai Bulkley succeeded him, Aug. 6th, 1806, and left Aug. 17th, 1809.

At a Vestry Meeting of Trinity Church, Fishkill, held November 2d, 1796, the following vestrymen were present :

Jeremiah Green,
Benjamin Snider,
John F. Carman,
John Southard,
Greenlief Street,
Francis Peyer,
Daniel C. Verplanck.

Having thus given a brief outline of the early organizations of the Episcopal and Presbyterian Churches, we recur again to the further outline of the Dutch Churches in the town.

In 1761 the first church edifice in the eastern part of the town, was erected at Hopewell. The following year, 1765, the church at New Hackensack. This period of the church was very much disturbed by the unfortunate dissension of its own membership, organized under two leaderships or parties, called Coetus and Conferentia. The Conferentia party were tenacious about the old customs, ordination of ministers, in Holland, the low Dutch language in the Church worship.

The Coetus party were the progressive party, in favor of ordaining ministers in America, preaching in English, &c.

Each of these parties supplied themselves with a preacher of their own taste. The Conferentia party, called Dr. Isaac Rysdike, in 1763, and in the same fall, the Coetus party called Rev. Henricus Schoonmaker. Both of these men officiated for a period of nearly ten years, over the same churches. It was a stormy period in the church, when bitter feelings were stimulated, and but little good done, and that little often times illy spoken of. This difference happily terminated in 1772. Dr. Rysdike continuing pastor, and Mr. Schoonmaker leaving for other fields of usefulness.

About this time Dr. Rysdike, discontinued his charge over the Poughkeepsie congregation, devoting his time to Fishkill, Hopewell and New Hackensack. He died in 1790, and was buried under the spire of the church at New Hackensack, the floor being removed for that purpose. He was considered in his day, one of the most accomplished preachers and scholars in America. The classics were as familiar to him as his own Holland tongue, and was, also, a thorough oriental Hebrew scholar. Educated in the best universities abroad, the accomplishments of the gentleman and the scholar were so blended as to be inseparable. His affability and address are to this day spoken of, and his appearance is said to have been very imposing. In person the Doctor was rather stontly made, and, as was the custom of that day, rode through his charge on horseback. He always wore a cocked hat and wig, and invariably lifted his hat from his head in passing any one, and gave them a friendly salutation. Upon Sabbath mornings would ride to the church door and dismount, handing his horse to the sexton, who stood in readiness waiting his coming. Rev. Mr. Blaurelt became associate pastor with Dr. Rysdike, after 1783, continuing until Nov., 1790. Rev. Nicholas Van Vranskir succeeded him in 1791, and died in the prime of manhood, in 1804. After this time the Church at Fishkill Village, called Dr. Cornelius D. Westbrook. He took this charge solely to himself, New Hackensack and Hopewell calling Rev. George Barkulo. Dr. Westbrook continued pastor at Fishkill for twenty-four years. Dr. Fisher succeeded him in 1830, and was succeeded by Dr. Kipp in 1836.

During the pastorate of Dr. De Witt, which began in 1812, Hopewell and New Hackensack dissolved the union which had so long existed, each being considered strong enough to maintain a separate church organization. This dissolution was made in 1826. Dr. De Witt remained at Hopewell. Was succeeded at New Hackensack, by

Dr. Dwight, and he by the present pastor. Rev. Dr. Van Cleef, was pastor at Hopewell fifteen years, was succeeded by Rev. Charles Whitehead, in 1828. He was succeeded by Rev. Dr. Polhemus, in 1835. Continuing twenty-two years, and was succeeded by Rev. Oliver C. Cobb in 1857.

The dates of organization, &c., of the other churches of the town can be found in other parts of the Directory.

Having thus treated of the churches of the town, before speaking of the local incidents connected with the Revolution, the reader will be privileged to examine an old muster roll of one of the first companies ever raised in the town, ostensibly to do battle for their King and country

A Muster Roll of the Men raised and pass'd in the

Captain JACOBUS SWARTWOUT.

Mens Names.	Day of Enlistment	Age.	Where born.	Trade.
Shedraek Baker,	April	1 26	Long Island.	Farmer.
Simon Schouten,	do	5 29	Fishkills.	do
John Schouten,	do	5 27	do.	do
Jacob Schouten,	do	1 18	do.	do
Henry Wright,	do	1 27	Staten Island.	do
George Hines,	do	4 22	West Chester.	Turner.
Joshua Barker,	do	5 30	Dutches.	Farmer.
Joseph Hornet,	March	31 31	Fishkills.	do
Anthony Coffin,	April	9 37	Old England.	Cordwainer.
James Bonnet,	do	19 18	Dutches.	Farmer.
Henry Gray,	do	4 35	Connecticut.	do
Thomas Coffin,	do	13 17	New England.	do
Daniel Nettleton,	do	8 20	Connecticut.	do
Richard Standy,	do	9 41	Old England.	Cordwainer.
William Priuket,	do	9 26	do. do.	Farmer.
William Woodford,	do	9 40	London.	Sadler.
Henry Wiltsie,	do	2 39	Long Island.	Farmer.
Robert Shearer,	do	9 28	New Jersey.	do
Edwert Walker,	do	4 17	Dutches.	do
James Picket,	do	6 16	New England.	do
Mingo Lango,	do	1 56	Rhode Island.	Labourer.
Stephen Bedford,	do	4 17	Goshen.	Cooper.
Thomas Meredet,	do	9 22	Fishkills.	do
Nicholas Meyer,	do	3 46	Flanders.	Weaver.
Jacob Coffin,	do	7 21	Fishkills.	Carpenter.
John Adam Wert,	do	3 20	Germany.	Labourer.
Hans Jorg Weatman,	do	26 28	do.	do
James Brooks,	do	9 27	New Jersey.	Cordwainer.
Oliver Cromwell,	do	2 20	West Chester.	Farmer.
Ephriam Barkley,	do	26 51	New England.	do
Solomon Schouten,	do	2 17	Fishkills.	do
Hermanus House,	do	1 21	Tappan.	do
William Green,	do	2 37	Old England.	Carpenter.
Cornelius Wiltsie,	do	18 30	Fishkills.	Weaver.
Peter Storn,	do	26 30	Long Island.	Labourer.
James Green,	do	26 16	Dutches.	Farmer.
Anon Allen,	do	17 20	Connecticut.	do
Joseph McIntosh,	do	17 21	do.	do
William Clark,	do	18 17	do.	do
James Draper,	do	23 17	Boston.	do
Samuel Clarek,	do	19 19	Connecticut.	do
Eleneza Cummins,	do	17 24	Boston.	do
Benjamin Cummins,	do	17 26	do.	Carpenter.
Phillip Smith,	do	23 18	Germany.	Labourer.
William Camble,	do	23 18	Dutches.	do
Thomas Frost,	do	15 17	do.	do
Patrick Mitchel,	do	14 35	Ireland.	do
Zebulon Mosier,	do	26 27	New England.	Carpenter.
Zacharia Parish,	do	17 21	Rhode Island.	Labourer.

County of Dutches, for Capt. Swartwout's Company.

NICHOLAS EMANS GABERELL, ISAAC TERBUSH, Lieutenants. April, 1760.

Out of what Company of the Militia.	Stature.		Description of Mens Persons.
	Feet.	Inches.	
Capt. H. Rosekrans,	5	9½	Black hair, swarthy, well sett.
do do	5	11	Brown hair, pock pitt'd do.
do do	5	6	Black do. do. do.
do do	5	7	Brown do. brown compl'xn.
do do	5	10½	Black do. mole on under lip.
do do	5	11½	Red do. fresh color.
do do	5	9	Light do. pale do.
do do	5	10½	Black do. brown do. well sett.
do do	5	7	Brown do. brown do.
do do	5	8½	do. do. pale long visage.
do do	5	10	do. do. fresh colour.
do do	5	1	do. do. do do
do do	5	5	Light do do do
Capt. Elijah Dubois,	5	4	Brown do fresh do
do do	5	6½	do do brown do
do do	6		do do do do
do do	6		do do do do
do do	5	9	Light do fresh do
do do	5	6	do do do do
do do	5	4	Brown do brown visage.
do do	5	8½	Negro black.
do do	5	6	Brown hair, fresh colour.
do do	5	8	Black do brown do
do do	5	8	do fresh compl'xn, brown vis.
Capt. Corn. Swartwout	6	½	Brown do pale do
do do	5	7	do do fresh col'r, pock pitt'd
do do	5	2	do do do do
do do	5	7	do do do do do
do do	5	8	do do brown do, long vis.
do do	5	5	Gray do do brown do.
do do	5	10	Brown do do
do do	5	11	do do Ruddy do
do do	5	11	do do brown do long vis.
do do	5	7	do do do do do
do do	5	10	Brown do do pock pitt'd.
do do	5		do do fresh, brown visage.
Capt. Ka. Boss,	5	10	Sandy do do
do do	5	9½	Brown do brown do
do do	3	3	do do do
do do	5	6½	Light do fresh do
do do	5	7	Brown do brown do
do do	5	5	do do do do
do do	5	6½	do do do do
do do	5	8½	do do do do
Capt. Humphries,	5	3	do do do do
do do	5	6	Light do fresh do
do do	5	1	Black do fresh do
do do	5	11	Brown do long visage.
Capt. Dickerson,	5	6½	do do do do



We pass the French and Indian Wars over too hastily, if we regard them simply as having reference to the then difficulties between France and England. We take a far more correct view, when we see in the training to arms and deadly strife, the needed tutelage, which the coming years would reveal as so apposite and fitting.

The men who fought the battles of England against the French and Indians were the young men of the country, who had been born and reared under a Monarchy. Had been educated vassals and minors, and needed further education to develop their manhood and make men of them. Not sycophants to cringe and crawl at the beck of Lords, as though Lords were made to rule over them; but men who felt with each renewed conflict and strife, that they were Lords themselves, and had the patent right to it, not by favor of the Crown; but by what their own strong arms and brave hearts had dared and done. The mind and spirit of the country had been developed. And the same men who fought with the young flush of manhood on their brows in 1660, wielded stronger weapons and dealt all the heavier blows, fifteen years later in the full strength of their manhood, when with inextinguishable purpose they resolved that they would die freemen, rather than live slaves. The French and Indian wars when viewed in this light are clad with grand realities. Their proportions dazzle us, just as the dawn gives promise of the day. The dawns of American Revolution may, therefore, with propriety date back to the French and Indian wars of 1760 and '63.

At the opening of the Revolution, the first conflict to arms at Lexington, in the spring of 1775, the whole country was startled at the impending imminence in which it had been so suddenly placed, and yet whoever reads carefully, or even carelessly the record of those times must now see that the culmination at Lexington was a necessity. The work might have been delayed, but delay only added to its strength. The Provincial Congress speedily assembled at New York, and began at once to devise measures for the general safety. County Committees were organized. These County Committees carried the instructions they received to the Precincts or Towns. The Precincts at once organized "a committee of observation" who took cognizance of the disaffection under their special charge. We give here a list of the persons forming this "Committee of Observation" in the town of Fishkill:

DIRCK G. BRINKERHOFF, Chairman.

Capt. JACOBUS SWARTWOUT, Dept. Chairman.

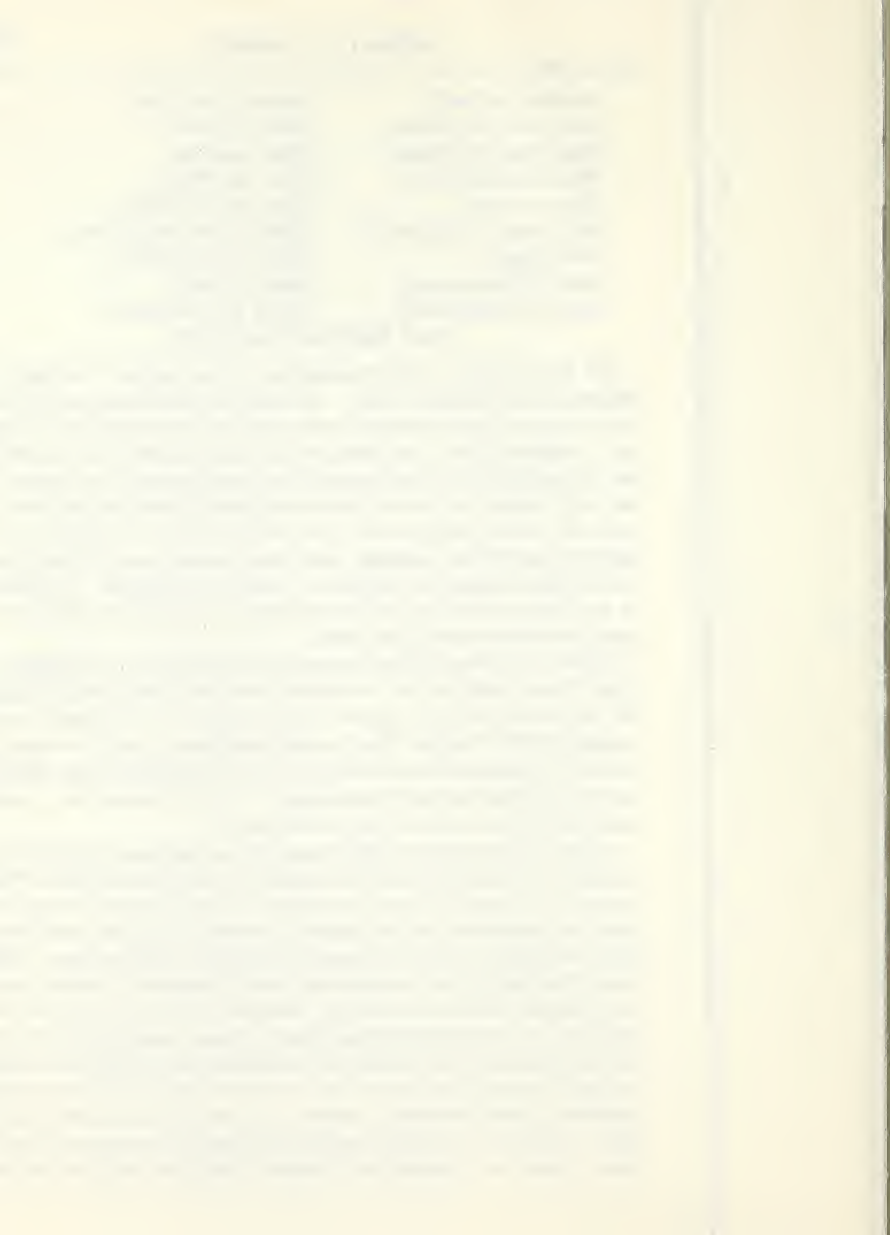
JOHN H. SLEIGHT, Clerk.

Jacobus De Graff,	Richard Van Wyck,
Capt. Isaac Hageman,	Henry Godwin,
Elias Van Benschoten,	John Langdon,
Capt. Joseph Horton,	Wm. Van Wyck,
Thomas Storm,	Capt. Jacob Griffin,
Col. Abm. D. Brinkerhoff,	Mathew Van Benschoten,
John Myers,	Capt. Isaac Ter Boss,
John S. Brinckerhoff,	Henry Schenck,
John A. Brinckerhoff,	Henry Rosecrans, jur.
Doct. Theodorus Van Wyck.	

The first meeting of this "Committee of observation" was held on Thursday, the 13th day of July. Washington had then been appointed in command of the American forces, and was then in person at Boston. From this time, July 13th, to the adjournment of the Committee, on the 27th day of September, during the period of ten weeks, at the very opening of the war, we have a perfect record of their action upon the varied business that came before them. This paper is in perfect preservation, covering more than twenty pages of finely and well written material of larger size than foolscap paper. Inasmuch as these papers have never been published, we shall not hesitate to make free use of them in this sketch.

Before this, however, that none may be confused at the locality of "Capt Jacob Griffin's," we would here state that it was situated upon the Hopewell road, just beyond Swartwoutville. This place is now occupied by Mr. Curtis. The building itself being much the same in outward appearance as when kept as a tavern stand by Capt. Griffin, and known then as the "Rendezvous." It was situated at a point convenient of access to all parts of the town.

At the second meeting of this committee, on Saturday, the 29th day of July, in the afternoon, at the house of Capt. Jacob Griffin, "the persons who were appointed to tender the association to the inhabitants and freeholders of this Precinct, returned the said association papers agreeably to an order, made at the first of this instant. This Committee taking into consideration that a number of persons have not yet signed the association, by reason of their not having an opportunity, occasioned by the shortness of time, committed for the return thereof, and others that are not convinced about signing the same, ordered, That the Chairman of this Committee do write a letter to the President of the Provincial Congress, at New York, acquainting him that a number of the inhabitants of this Precinct are not convinced about signing the association. Ordered, That time be given for the



return of the said association papers, till Tuesday, the 15th of Aug. next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the same day at the house of Capt. Griffin.

Resolved, That the several Captains of the Companies in this Precinct be requested to call their Companies together by the twelfth day of August next, in order that the association be tendered to them for signing and that no coercive means be used to make them sign, and make a return to this Committee by the 15th of Aug. next, and that the Capts. be requested to call their companies together on the following days, viz :

Capt. Southard's Company, on Saturday, the 5th of Aug. next.

Capt. Brinkerhoff, on Tuesday, 8th Aug. next.

Capt. Horton, on Saturday, 12th Aug. next.

Ordered, That Dr. Theodorus Van Wyck do acquaint Capt. Bedell to call his Company by the 12th Aug., and make return by the 15th, and that Mathew Van Benschouten, do request Capt. Leyster to call his Company together by the 12th, and make return the 15th Aug.

Resolved, By this Committee that a fine of 4 shillings be laid upon each of the members of this Committee for no attendance, unless a reasonable excuse can be made, the legality of the excuse to be adjudged by not less than six of the committee. And for the first quarter of an hour after the time appointed six pence; for half an hour one shilling; for a whole hour two shillings.

Committee Chamber at the house of Capt. Griffin at Fishkill, Aug. 15th, 1775. Pursuant to adjournment of the 29th ultimo, to this day, at the hour of 10 o'clock, a. m., at the house aforesaid. The Chairman and Clerk appearing at the hour, the list was called and the following persons of the committee not appearing, their names as defaulters were accordingly entered for not appearing at the hour, viz :

Jacobus De Graff,	John G. Brinkerhoff,
Capt. Isaac Hageman,	Mathew Van Benschoten,
Elias Van Benschoten,	Capt. Isaac Ter Boss,
Capt. Joseph Horton,	Wm. Van Wyck,
Thomas Storm,	Henry Schanck,
Col. Abm. Brinkerhoff,	Henry Rosecrans, jur,
Capt. Jacobus Swartwout,	John A. Brinkerhoff,
John Meyers,	Doct. Theodorus Van Wyck.

The above gentlemen did not appear at a quarter past ten o'clock. Richard Van Wyck, Capt. Jacobus Swartwout, and John G. Brinkerhoff appearing before half past ten, and none of the other defaulters, were fined six pence.



Jacobus De Graff, Capt. Isaac Hageman and Elias Van Benschoten appearing before the hour of eleven. The rest were deemed subject to the fines agreed to at the last adjournment, being 2 shillings each. And the above De Graff Hageman and Van Benschoten, one shilling each. Which fines were deducted from the landlord's bill of this day, for victuals and drink, 12 o'clock. The Committee being met they proceeded upon the business of the day. The first thing that offered was to make a true copy of the names of those persons who signed and who refused signing the association. Which being done the Chairman was ordered to transmit the same to the Provincial Congress, with the utmost dispatch, and keep the original in his hand for the inspection of the committee.

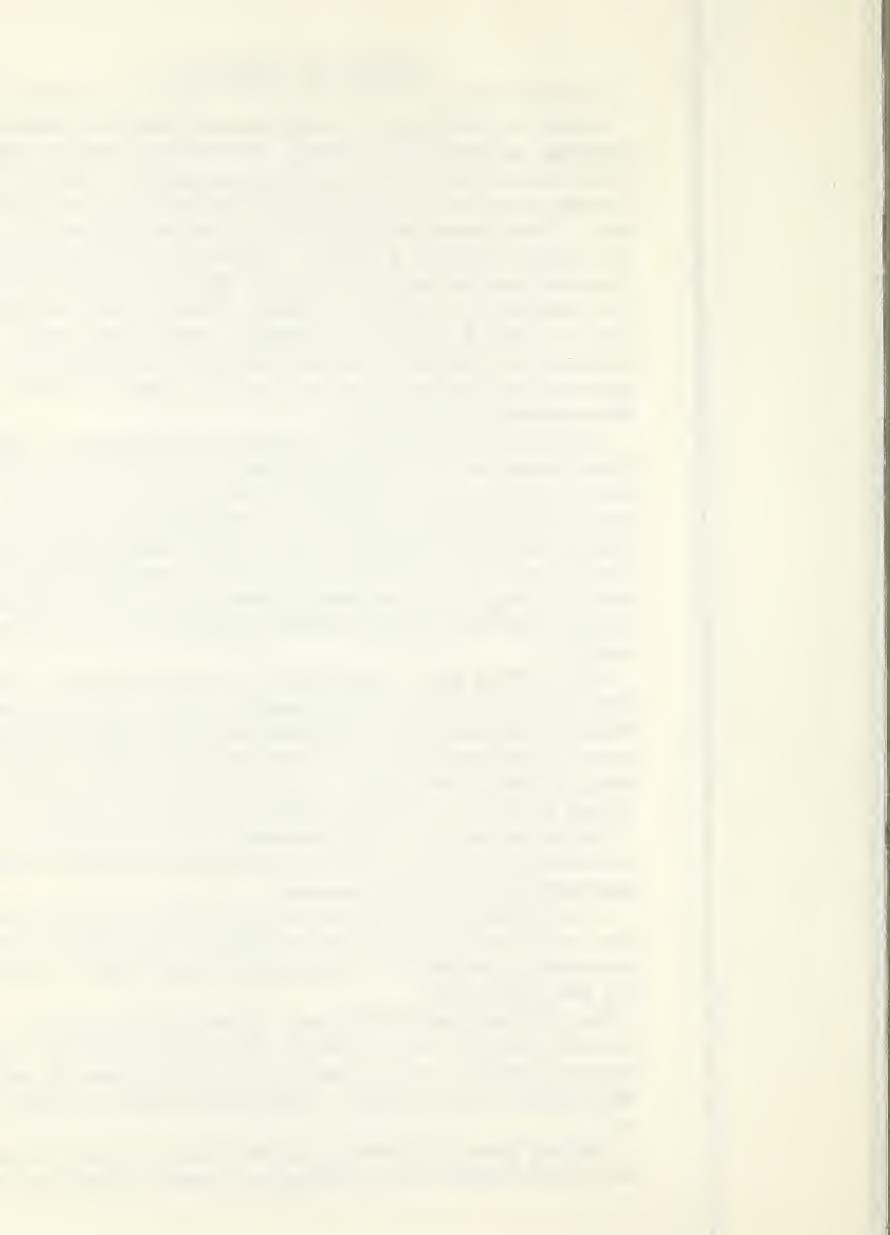
The next things in order were charges and specifications. One of these charges was "For drinking damnation to the Church of England." Another, "For deuying the Authority of the Continental Congress, and all authority under them." Ordered that the next meeting of this committee be at the house of Mr John Langdon, on Thursday the 17th, at 2 o'clock. Resolved, that Lieut's. Langdon and Van Benschouten bring such a detachment as their Capt. shall think sufficient to bring John Doe before the sub committee at the time of our next meeting.

Ordered, That John A. Brinkerhoff wait upon John Doe with a letter from the Chairman of this Committee, requesting his attendance. Ordered, That on refusal of compliance that Capt. Jacobus Rosecerans order a detachment of his men to apprehend the said John Doe, and bring him before this Committee to answer such matter as shall be alleged against him. Resolved, That there should be inquiry made by the several members of this Committee, in the road districts, what number of arms can be purchased or hired for the Continental forces, and make report at the next meeting.

At a meeting of the major part of this Committee of observation, convened by the Chairman. or an extraordinary call from the County Committee, before the day of adjournment at Capt. Griffin's, on Monday 21st August, 1775.

The Chairman took the chair and reported to the board that on Saturday the 18th ult., he received a resolve from Chairman of the County Committee. That in consequence of which resolve, he called this meeting of the Committee. Then read the resolve as follows, to wit:

Dutchess County Committee, Aug 18th, 1775. That the Committee in each Precinct to be attended by a sufficient guard go to the



persons called Tories, and in a friendly manner request them to part with their firelocks for the use of the Continental Forces, at a reasonable price, to be affixed by one of the Committee and a person to be elected by the person parting with the firelocks, and in case of their disagreement, then the appraisement to be made by a third person to be nominated by the other two appraisers, and upon refusal, to take such firelocks forceably, and to value them, and keep a list of the names of the persons from whom such firelocks shall be taken, together with the value of each firelock.

In consequence of a former resolve of this Committee of the 15th inst., the following persons were appointed to hire or purchase arms in the several following districts. To wit :

Deirek G. Brinkerhoff,	}	For the District of Capt. Southard's Company.
John H. Sleight,		
Isaac Ter Boss,		
Theod. Van Wyck,		
Henry Godwin,		

Jacobus Swartwout,	}	For Capt. Griffin's Company.
Jacob Griffin,		
John Myer,		

Henry Schenck,	}	Capt. Beedle's Company.
William Van Wyck,		

Joseph Horton,	}	Capt. Horton's Company.
Abm. Brinkerhoff,		
Thomas Storm,		

Richard Van Wyck,	}	Capt. Hageman's Company.
John A. Briukerhoff,		
Henry Rosecrans, jur.		

Mathew Van Benschoten,	}	Capt. Leyster's Company.
John G. Brinkerhoff,		

Charges specified—Mr. Henry Rosecrans, one of the members of this committee reported that, John Doe came to the house of him, the said Henry Rosecrans, on Sunday, the 20th August inst., with a drawn cutlass, and with great violence, damned the recruiting officers, the men listed by them, and all proceedings of the committee. The Committee taking the charge against John Doe into consideration, are of opinion that the words spoken are very contemptuous against the authority invested in this Committee and detrimental to the public cause. The question being put whether the said John Doe be sent for immediately before this committee : It was resolved unanimously that Capt. Jacob Rosecrans, Lieuts. Benschouten and Langdon, to



wait upon the said Doe and desire him to appear immediately before this Committee; and on refusal of compliance the said Captain Rosecrans take a file of men and bring him forcibly before this Committee, and that the said Rosecrans, Benschouten and Langdon do likewise request Daniel Wright, Benjamin Rosecrans and Wm: Van Amburgh, jun., to attend this Committee at the same time as evidences against the said John Doe.

A list of the pieces and names of the persons from whom the arms were purchased for the Continental service:

	Pur- chased	Passed Muster	£. S. D.	
Obadiah Cooper,	1	do	1 12 0	Purchased in the dist. of Capt. Southard's Co., by Doct Theodorus Van Wyck and Henry Godwin, for the use of the Continental army.
Cornelius Adriance,	1	do	1 12 0	
Nathan Bailey,	1	do	2 10 0	
Jacob De Peyster,	1	do	2 15 0	
James Weeks,	1	do	2 00 0	
Hugh Conner,	1	do	2 10 0	
John Laurence,	1	do	2 10 0	In the dist. of Capt. Stephen Brinkerhoff's Co., by Richard Van Wyck, John A. Brinkerhoff and Henry Rosecrans, jun.
Jeremiah Martin,	1	do	2 00 0	
John Brinkerhoff,	1	do	1 10 0	
Richard Yates,	1	do	1 10 0	
John Leyster,	1	con'm'd	0 00 0	
Henry Wyckoff,	1	Pa'dMu	1 12 0	Purchased in the dist. of Capt. Griffin's Company, by Jacob Swartwout, Jacob Griffin and John Myers.
Isaac Holmes,	1	do	2 00 0	
Jonathan Du Bois,	1	con'm'd	0 00 0	
Jacob Miller,	1	Pa'dMu	1 15 0	
Caleb Moicer,	1	do	2 00 0	
Wm. Brooks,	1	do	2 10 0	
Jacobus Swartwout,	1	do	2 05 0	
Jacob Brinkerhoff,	1	do	1 5 0	
Jacob Griffin,	1	do	2 10 0	
Wm. Raynor,	1	do	1 6 0	Capt. Bedel's Company, by Wm. Van Wyck and Henry Schenck.
Wm Algelt,	1	do	2 00 0	
Rod Swartwout,	1	do	1 15 0	
John Parks,	1	do	1 10 0	
Joh Wiltsey,	1	do	2 00 0	Capt. Horton's Company by Joseph Horton, Abm. Brinkerhoff and Thos. Storm.
Garret Storm,	1	do	2 00 0	
Gorus Storm,	1	do	1 10 0	
Joh Dewitt,	1	do	1 15 0	
Thos Storm,	1	do	2 10 0	
Peter Depew,	1	do	1 2 0	
Richard Osburn,	1	do	1 10 0	



Wm Hogeland,	1	do	2 00 0	
Nich Brewer, jun ,	1	do	2 14 0	
Th V Bremen,	1	do	2 00 0	
Corn Brewer,	1	do	1 15 0	Capt. Leyster's Company
James Compten,	1	do	3 00 0	by Mathew VanBenschou-
James Weeks,	1	do	3 10 0	ten and John S. Binkerhoff.
Philip V Plank,	1	do	1 10 0	
Stephen Duryce,	1	do	3 00 0	
John Ackerman,	1	do	2 10 0	
Joseph Taylor,	1	do	2 00 0	
Jacob Barker,	1	do	2 10 0	
Peter Van DeWater,	1	do	2 10 0	
Peter Van Stenburgh	1	do	2 00 0	Capt. Hegeman's Com-
Abm Sleight,	1	do	2 15 0	pany, by Jocus DeGraff,
Abm Rogers,	1	do	2 00 0	Isaac Hegeman and Elias
Jacob Midagh,	1	do	2 15 0	Van Benschouten.
Wm Barker,	1	do	2 5 0	
Isaac Hageman,	1	do	4 00 0	
Jacob Du Bois.				

50 guns. £105 10 0

ommittee met at the house of Capt. Jacob Griffin, Sept. 9th.

The matter of complaint of John Roe against John Doe, coming before this board. Stephen Duryea declares that while John Roe and John Doe were together drinking he never heard John Doe drink damnation to the Church of England; but some other toast. This board taking the above into consideration, after hearing the proofs and allegations of both parties are of opinion that, that the said John Doe is not guilty of the charges alleged against him by the said John Roe, and this board do further say that the said John Roe, is guilty of a notorious falsehood in saying that the evidences were not examined and sworn to in his presence.

We have thus given to the reader liberal extracts from this old Revolutionary document. It is marked on the outside: The General Proceedings till 9th Sept., 1775. It is of very little account to the public now to know who John Doe and John Roe were—such kind of questionings can do no earthly good, and cannot be gratified. Its enough to know that John Doe was a reputable character, kept good company, not a brawler, nor a busy body, but had lived so long, and held offices so long under the crown that he honestly believed all proceedings of Committees of observation, Colonial Congress, &c., usurpations of rightful authority. John Doe from his stand point looked upon the whole business as an outbreaking of mobery and vandalism,



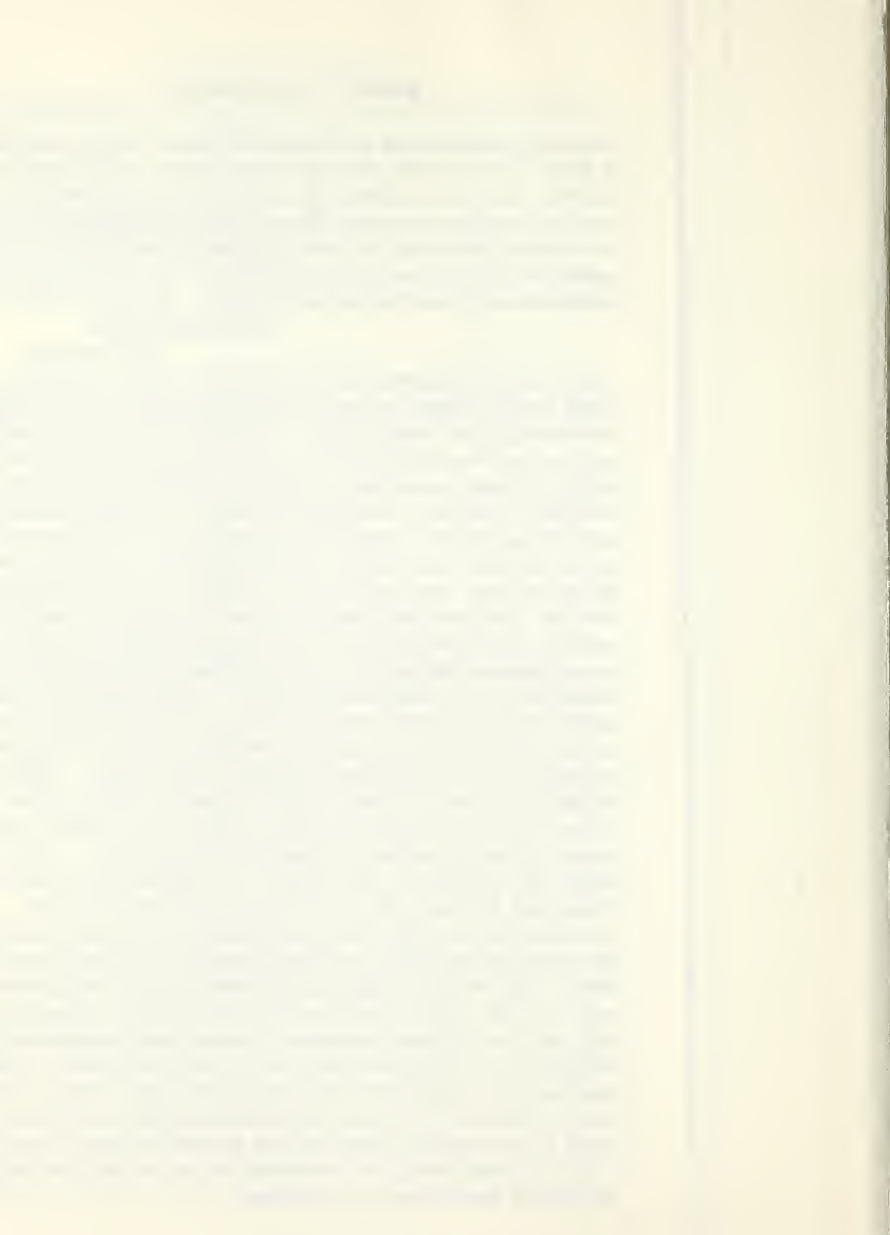
which only needed a little wholesome discipline, a straight collar tightly buttoned to the chin, here and there, and the whole thing would dissolve. John Doe believed it, and because he believed it, could even then see these same men before whom he was arraigned as a mover of seditions, dissensions, &c., most suppliantly beseeching him to intercede for them, to save their necks from the halter, their lands from confiscation and their families from disgrace. He was a King's man.

FOR THE KING,

Thick or thin.

Lest some too might suppose that John Doe was a troublesome, single handed fellow, we can do no better service than to disabuse their minds of this fallacy at once. John Doe had as many heads almost as there are ears of corn in a corn field, not branching out of one body, but each several head with other organizations as perfect as the head. John Doe was ubiquitous besides. In every township or ward, village or city. In Rombouts Precinct, in a population embracing 762 freeholders and inhabitants, 502 signed the association papers and 260 refused, being a little over one third of the whole population enrolled. Lest too some sensitive townsmen might think such an exposition a little disreputable to the fair name and fame of our old town, we will continue the exposition a little further. Beekman Precinct returned 386 as her whole numerical force. Of this number 257 signed and 135 refused, a shade worse to do it will be observed, than our old town. Poughkeepsie returned in all 295 men, of these 213 signed and 82 refused, only a shade better than either of the others. Rhinebeck returned in all 480 men, 262 for and 218 against, decidedly worse than either, almost in fact equally divided. The reader therefore, it is presumed, is already satisfied with the ubiquitous John Doe. We could extend the comparison still further into neighboring counties and States, and find much the same state of affairs there existing. The one conclusion to which we should inevitably be brought would be, that no particular section could claim privilege to throw stones at the other. They were all living in glass houses together, and the wonder must ever be, that how with such a divided home sentiment, apparently too weak, if united, to cope with so formidable an adversary, the Independence of the States could ever have been obtained. The difficulties under which it was obtained invest it with as daring a heroism, as invincible a purpose, as inextinguishable a will, as can be found in any chapters of great deeds in the world's great history.

The American Pledge, or Association Papers, as they are called in the General Proceedings, was as follows:



Persuaded that the salvation of the rights and liberties of America depend, under God, on the firm union of its inhabitants in a rigorous prosecution of the measures necessary for its safety; and convinced of the necessity of preventing anarchy and confusion, which attend a dissolution of the powers of government; we, the freemen, freeholders and inhabitants of Rombout's Precinct, being greatly alarmed at the avowed design of the Ministry to raise a revenue in America, and shocked by the bloody scenes now acting in Massachusetts Bay, do, in the most solemn manner, resolve never to become slaves, and do associate, under all the ties of religion, honor, and love to our country, to adopt and endeavor to carry into execution whatever measures may be recommended by the Continental Congress, or resolved upon by our Provincial Congress, for the purpose of preserving our Constitution and opposing the execution of the several arbitrary acts of the British Parliament, until a reconciliation between Great Britain and America, on constitutional principles (which we most ardently desire) can be obtained, and that we will in all things, follow the advice of our General Committee respecting the purposes aforesaid, the preservation of peace and good order, and the safety of individuals and property.

After the evacuation of New York, in the fall of 1776, and the immediate loss of the seaboard, with Long Island and part of New Jersey, the operations of the army were carried on further into the interior of the country. Fishkill then became, from its safe position north of the Highlands, a place of much consideration. The town was at once crowded with refugees, as they were then called, who sought by banishing themselves from their homes on Long Island and New York, to escape sure imprisonment, and find safety here. The interior army route to Boston passed through this place. Army stores, workshops, ammunition, &c., were established and deposited here. The Marguis De Chastellux, in his travels in North America, says: "This town, in which there are not more than fifty houses in the space of two miles, has been long the principal Depot of the American Army. It is there they have placed their magazines, their hospitals, their workshops, &c., but all of these form a town in themselves, composed of handsome large barracks, built in the woods at the foot of the mountains; for the American Army, like the Romans in many respects, have hardly any other winter quarters than wooden towns, or barricaded camps, which may be compared to the hiemalia of the Romans." These barracks were situated on the level plateaux between the residence of Mr. Cotheal and the mountains. Portions of these grounds were no doubt then covered with timber.



Guarding the approach from the south, stockades and fortifications were erected on commanding positions, and regularly manned by detachments from the camp. Upon one of these hills, rising out of this mountain pass-way, very distinct lines of earth works are yet apparent. Near the residence of Mr Sidney E. Van Wyck, by the large Black Walnut trees, and east of the road near the base of the mountain, was the Soldier's Burial Ground. Many poor patriot soldier's bones lie mouldering there; and how many, if we did but know this, we should be startled at their magnitude.— This almost unknown and unnoticed burial ground holds not a few, but hundreds of those who gave their lives for the cause of American Independence. Some fifteen years ago, an old lady who was then living at an advanced age, and who had lived near the village until after she had grown to womanhood, told the writer that after the battle of White Plains she went with her father through the streets of Fishkill, and in places between the Dutch and Episcopal Churches, the dead were piled up as high as cord wood. These were buried there. The wounded of the battle who afterwards died, were buried there. The constant stream of death from the hospitals were buried there. The small pox, which broke out in the camp, and prevailed very malignantly, added many more. All of these causes would swell the number, until it would seem large enough and too large to have remained to this day so unobserved and unknown. Many of these were State Militia men, and it seems no more than just that the State should make an appropriation to erect a suitable monument over this spot. Rather than thus remain for another century, if a rough granite boulder were rolled down from the mountain side and inscribed: *To the unknown and unnumbered dead of the American Revolution*; that rough unhewn stone would tell to the stranger and the passer by, more to the praise and fame of our native town, than any of us shall be able to add to it by works of our own. For it is doubtful whether any spot in the State has as many of the buried dead of the Revolution as this quiet spot in our old town. These hospitals will now command further notice. Some of these hospitals were located in the barracks about the encampment, others in the more immediate vicinity of the village. The Episcopal Church was used for that purpose all the time it was needed. The Dutch Church not so much, possibly only when the pressure of circumstances demanded it. The Academy building, located on the hill above the residence of Mr. James B. Brinkerhoff, and in the rear of a building now occupied by a colored family, was also used as a hospital. Upon the site of the



house now located there, there was what was then called a *Green house*, whether from the color of the building or otherwise, we are not able to say. Several of the young Doctors resided there. Among these were Dr. Edmondson, Dr. Wainright, Dr. Ledger, Dr. Adams, and Dr. Duffel. Mr. and Mrs. Lake kept house for the young Doctors. Beyond this, the Presbyterian Church was further called into requisition for hospital purposes. Disaffected persons were also confined there.

The following letter from Gen. McDougal, which has never before been published, will give a more clear insight into the hospital department located at Fishkill:

1753528

WHEREAS the Principal Surgeons and Physicians of the Hospitals at this place represented to me in December, one thousand seven hundred and sixty eight, then commanding at this Post, that the barracks and Episcopal Church were so crowded with the sick that their condition was rendered deplorable, and were otherwise in a suffering condition for want of proper covering, and there being no public buildings fit to receive or accommodate the sick, but the Presbyterian Church of this town, which impelled me from necessity to order the said church to be taken and occupied for the purposes aforesaid; which was accordingly occupied; whereby considerable damage has been done to said building, now, therefore, I do hereby certify that at the time aforesaid, I engaged the public faith that whatever damage should be done to the said church would be repaired or repaid by the public. Given at Fishkill, the 8th of March, 1780.

ALEX. McDOUGAL,
M. General.

We pass now from the hospitals to the more prominent places of public interest connected with this period of the history of the town. The "Walton House," as it has been termed, is one of them. This name has already led to much needless mistake. Cooper first introduced this fictitious name, for the laudable purpose, no doubt, of not bringing private families too conspicuously before the public. While this is highly commendable in a novelist; in a sketch designed to impart information to the people of the town respecting their own town history, no such purpose is needed nor desirable. The people of the town should therefore know that the Walton House of Cooper is none

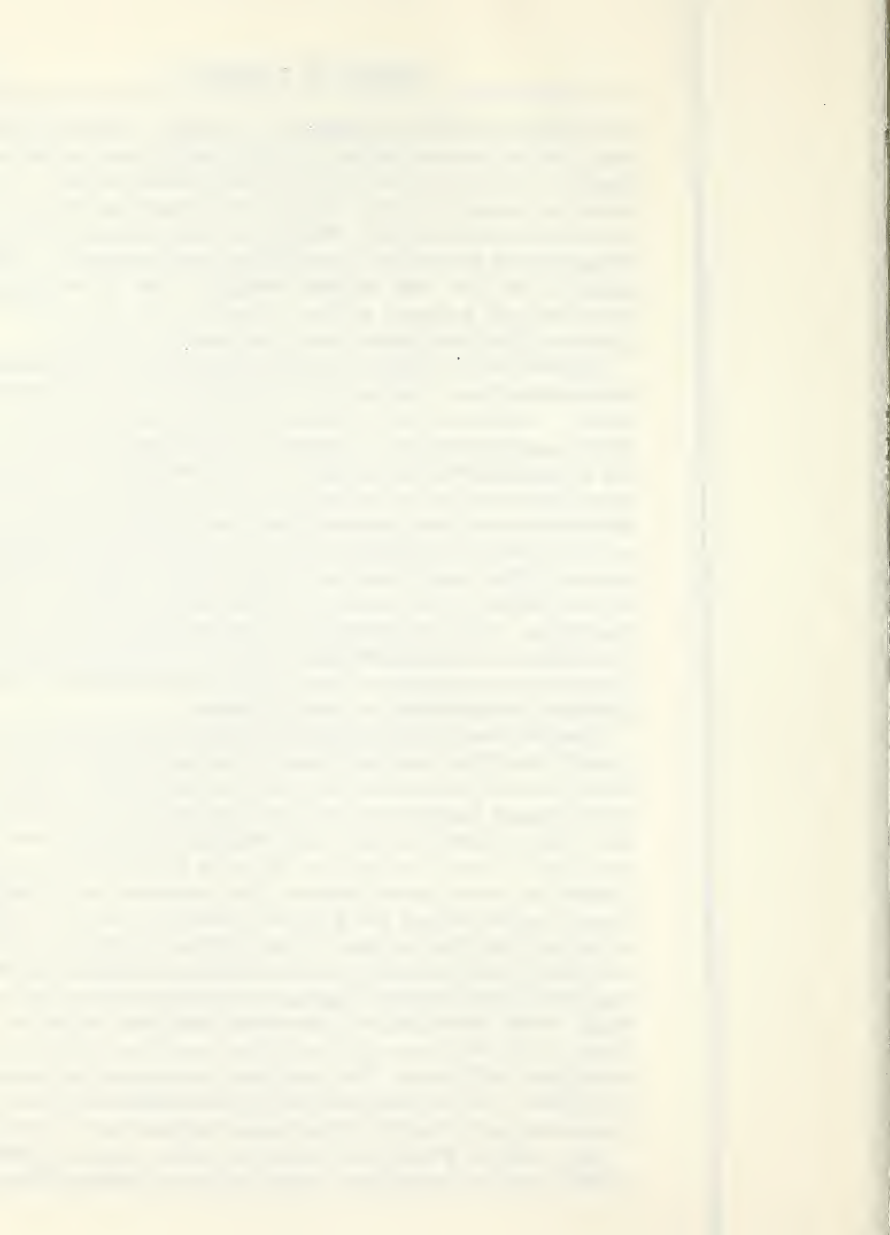


other than the residence of Mr. Sidney E. Van Wyck. The place has always been in possession of the Van Wyck family, from the first settlement of the country, and never yet passed into other hands. This house was situated in close proximity to the barracks occupied by the American forces at this Post. Washington quartered there, and other officers made it their home as long as the necessity required it. Other places in the town were similarly occupied. The old building at Swartwoutville, belonging to Mrs. Swartwout, was for a time the quarters of the Baron Steuben, and other members of his staff.

The house of Mr. Mathew V.B. Brinkerhoff likewise accommodated distinguished hosts. Gen. Lafayette resided there; Doct. McNight and others. Washington, too, was often a temporary inmate of the family. While quartered there, Gen. Lafayette was taken sick, remaining sick six weeks, attended by Dr. Cochran. It was while he was there sick, that a child was born in the family, and the mother of the child informed the writer that she should always remember Lafayette in the act of kissing and rejoicing over her son. The hotel occupied at present by Mr. Davis, was also a place of much notoriety. Part of the old building is still standing. Washington is said to have often dined there. The Ver Planck house, near the river, was for a time the quarters of the Baron Steuben. This old Ver Planck house, too, has other historic associations; the society of the Cincinnati was there organized, and will again be further alluded to.

Of other places of public interest, the site of the residence of Mr. John C. Van Wyck may justly claim a passing attention. The first Constitution of the State of New York was first published there in 1777. Samuel London, who had up to the time of the evacuation of New York, published his paper there, removed his press and material to Fishkill. It was for a time the only paper that could be found to publish the news of public interest. The Convention of the Representatives of the State of New York, were also at the same time obliged to migrate from place to place. They held short sessions at Harlem and White Plains, retreating before the invaders to Fishkill, and there armed themselves for defense against any opposition that might be offered. While at Fishkill, the Convention held their session in the Episcopal Church, afterward removed from here to Poughkeepsie, and from there to Kingston. The Post Office was kept at the house of Mr. London. Mr. Joseph Jackson Diddle, of New Hackensack, has in his possession quite a large file of these papers in perfect preservation.

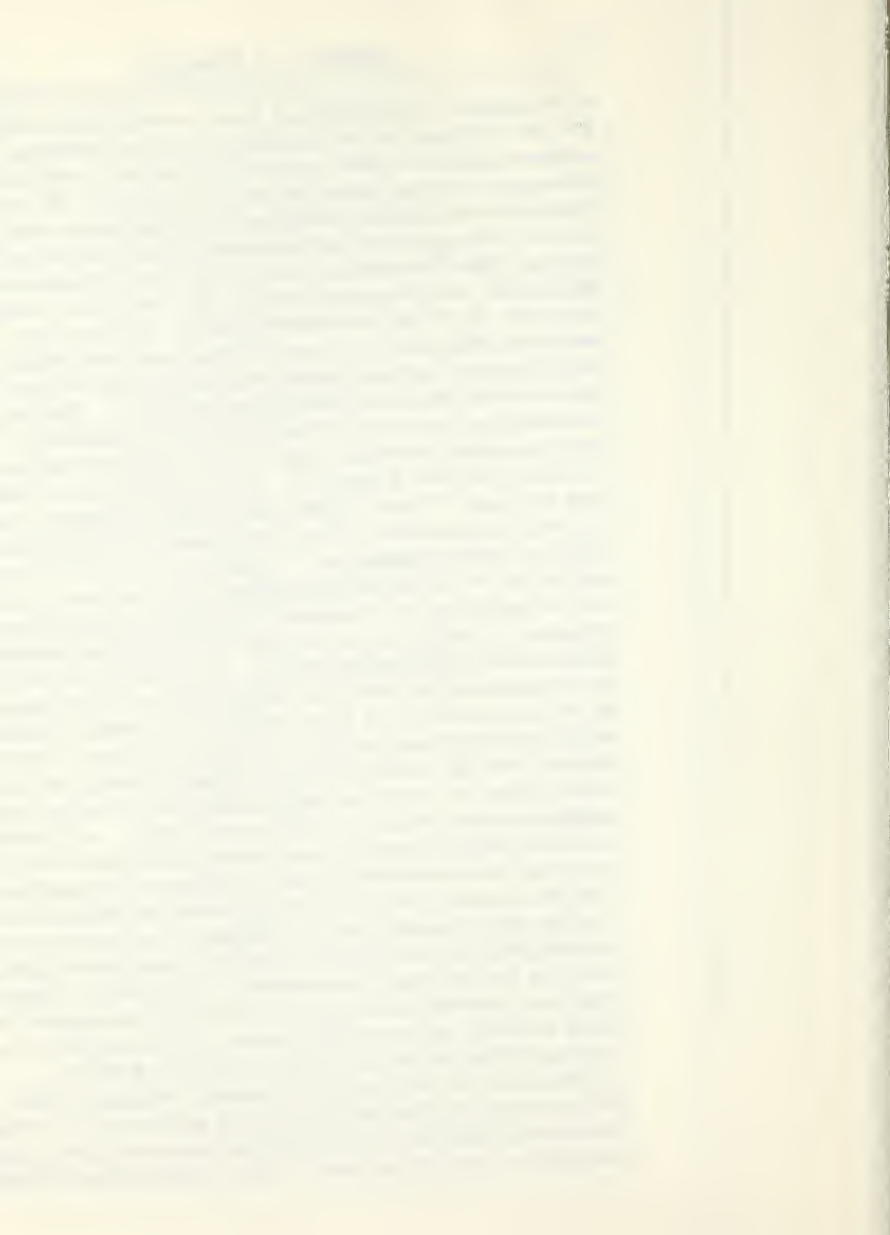
The sword of Washington, bearing the maker's name, J. Bailey, Fishkill, and now preserved in a glass case in the National Museum



at Washington, was without any doubt manufactured in this place. The old workshop was still standing but a few years ago. Other evidences beside the maker's name, which is in itself conclusive, favor the assertion, and but make it all the more apparent. We will close this part of our subject by mentioning a few incidents associating the name of Washington with the Revolutionary history of our town. At one time while Washington was in the town, he was a guest of John Brinkerhoff. Mr. Brinkerhoff lived in the stone house occupied at present by Mr. White, near Swartwoutville. He was a very ardent outspoken Whig, though advanced in years, and very anxious to obtain information, and was pressing zealously his point to know of certain movements, which were then going on in the army. Washington interrupted by asking, "Can you keep a secret, Mr. Brinkerhoff?" "Oh, yes," he replied, "certainly," expecting no doubt the ready answer. "*So can I*," replied Washington. One other incident in connection with this place. When it grew time to retire, "General," said Mr. B., "you are Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the United States." "Yes sir," replied Washington, "I believe that I am." "General," said Mr. B., "I am Commander-in-Chief, too, of my own household, and you are my guest. I am always in the habit of closing the duties of the day by calling my servants and family together, reading the Scriptures and offering family worship. The reading of the Scriptures and the prayer will be in the Low Dutch language; but would be glad to have you join in spirit in the worship." To which Washington readily assented, when they all bowed together in prayer. One other incident. On one occasion, when Washington passed through the eastern part of the town, the people being eager to see him, had assembled at a place where the roads cross each other. As Washington rode up and halted, they all at once uncovered their heads before him. As soon as he observed this, he said, "Gentlemen, put your hats on; I am but a man like yourselves, and wish no such deference shown me."

At the time of Arnold's treason, Washington was in the vicinity of Fishkill, going to West Point from this place, and arrived there just when the act had been consummated. The notorious Joshua H. Smith, was arrested here a day or two afterward, on charge of complicity in aiding the treasonable scheme. We extract from a work published by him in England so much as refers to Fishkill:

"I mentioned to Gen. Arnold the distance I accompanied Mr. Anderson, which gave him apparently much satisfaction. His dinner being ready, I partook of it, refreshed my horses, and in the evening proceeded to Fishkill to my family. Here I found General Washing-

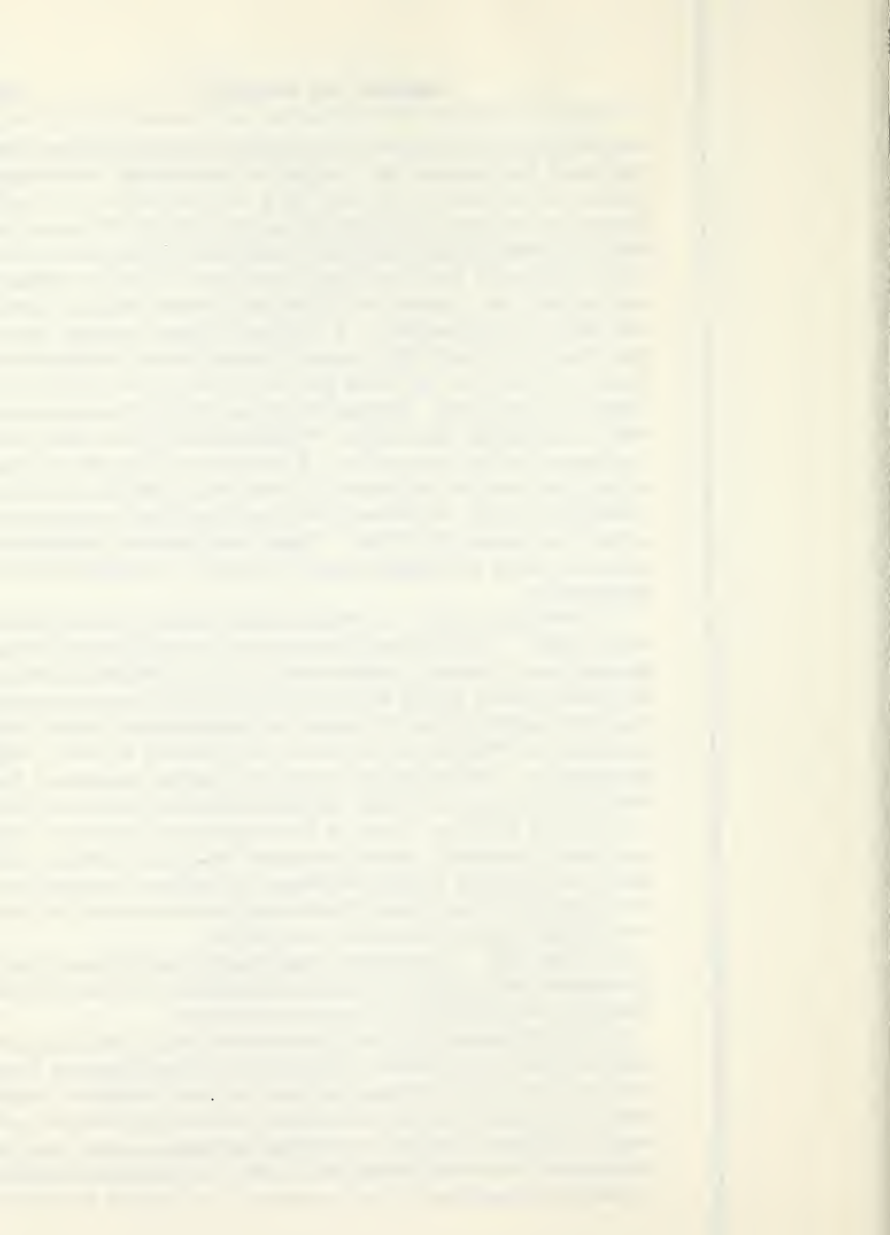


ton had arrived in the course of the afternoon, on his return from visiting Count Rochambeau, and I supped in his company, with a large retinue at Gen. Scott's. The next day I went on business to Poughkeepsie, and returned to Fishkill the ensuing evening. It was on the 25th of September, about midnight, that the door of my room where I lay in bed with Mrs. Smith, was forced open with great violence, and instantly the chamber was filled with soldiers who approached my bed with fixed bayonets. I was then without ceremony drawn out of bed by a French officer named Grovion, whom I recollected to have entertained at my house not long before, in the suite of the Marquis De Lafayette. He commanded me instantly to dress myself and to accompany him to Gen. Washington, having an order from the General, he said, to arrest me. I then desired of him the privilege of having my servant, and one of my horses to go with him to General Washington, which he refused, and I was immediately marched off on foot the distance of 18 miles." Smith was afterward tried and imprisoned, but by some means escaped and went to England with the British army.

We recur again to the Ver Planck house, to which we have before made allusion. This old mansion house was occupied by the Baron Steuben, and is situated a couple of miles north of Fishkill Landing. It is built of stone, a story and a half high, and still in good preservation. The society of the Cincinnati was organized here, whose first president was Washington, and which still continues to exist. This circumstance, without alluding to the distinguished members of the family who have gone from this old homestead to fill positions of public trust, and adorn our American literature with the leaves of ripe and chaste scholarship, aside from these, this old homestead will forever be connected with Revolutionary associations. Inasmuch as this organization was perfected in the town, we will further note the constitution by giving this to the reader in full.

May 13th, 1783. A committee, consisting of Generals Knox, Hand Huntington, and Captain Shaw, met at the quarters of Stenben (Ver Planck's), and adopted the following constitution:

It having pleased the Supreme Governor of the disposition of human affairs to cause the separation of the colonies of North America, from the dominion of Great Britain, and after a bloody conflict of eight years to establish their free, independent, and sovereign states, connected by alliances founded on reciprocal advantages, with some of the greatest princes and powers of the earth; To perpetuate, therefore as well the remembrance of this vast event, as the mutual friendships



which have been formed under the pressure of a common danger, and in many instances cemented by the blood of the parties, the officers of the American army do hereby in the most solemn manner associate, constitute and combine themselves into one society of friends to endure so long as they shall endure, or any of their oldest male posterity, and in failure thereof, the collateral branches who may be judged worthy of becoming its supporters and members. The officers of the American army, having generally been taken from the citizens of America, possess high veneration for the character of that illustrious Roman, Lucius Quintilus Cincinnatus, and being resolved to follow his example, by returning to their citizenship, they think they may with propriety denominate themselves the Society of the Cincinnatti. The following principles shall be immutable, and form the basis of the Society of the Cincinnatti:

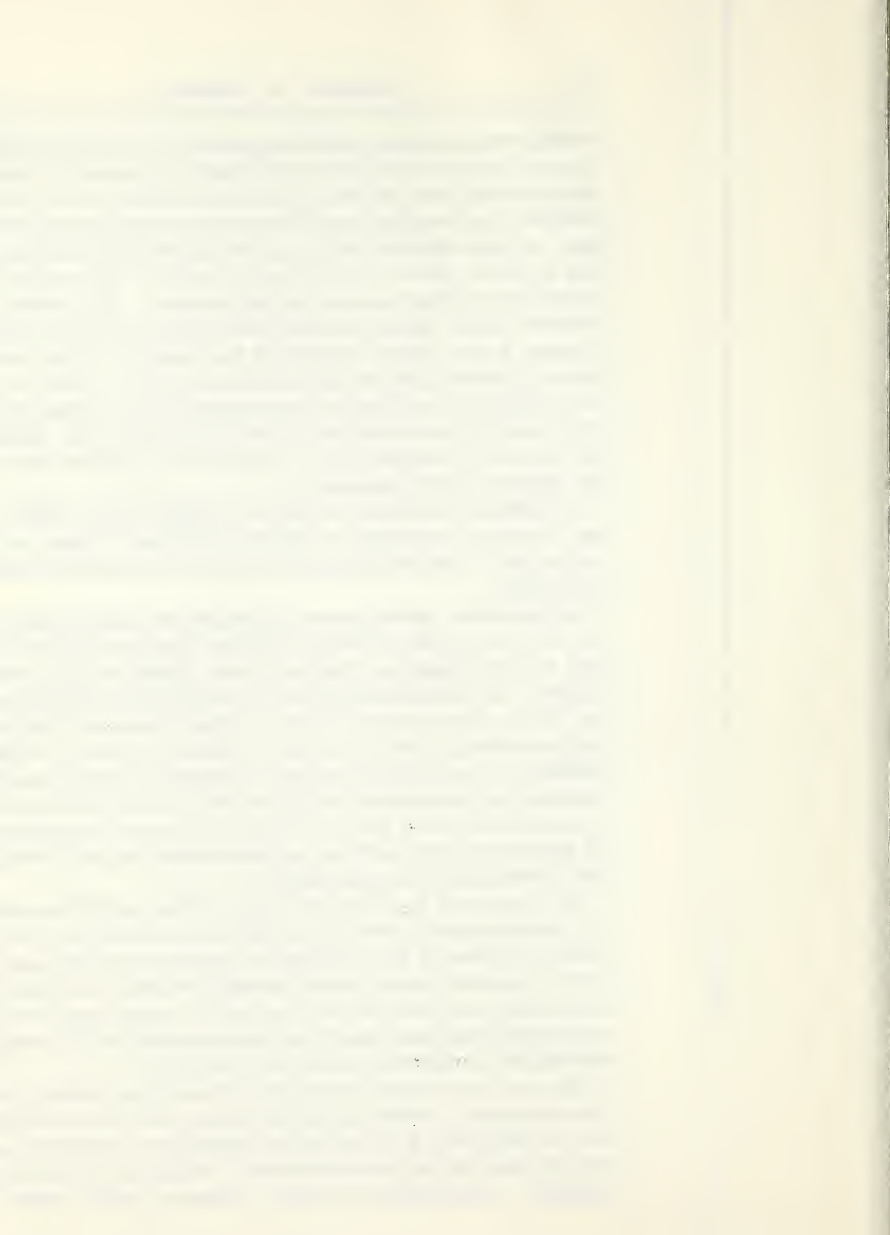
An incessant attention to preserve inviolate those exalted rights and liberties of human nature for which they have fought and bled, and without which the high rank of a rational being is a curse instead of a blessing.

An unalterable determination to promote and cherish between the respective states, that unison and national honor so essentially necessary to their happiness, and the future dignity of the American Empire. To render permanent the cordial affection subsisting among the officers, this spirit will dictate brotherly kindness in all things, and particularly extend to the most substantial acts of beneficence, according to the ability of the Society; toward those officers and their families who unfortunately may be under the necessity of receiving it.

The general society will, for the sake of frequent communication, be divided into state societies, and these again into such districts as shall be directed by the state society.

The societies of the district to meet as often as shall be agreed on by the state society, those of the state on the fourth day of July annually, or oftener if they shall find it expedient; and the general society on the first Monday in May annually, so long as they shall deem it necessary, and afterward at least once in every three years. At each meeting the principles of the institution will be fully considered and the best measures to promote them adopted.

The state societies will consist of all the members residing in each state respectively, and any member removing from one state to another is to be considered in all respects as belonging to the society of the state in which he shall actually reside. The state societies to have a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treas-



suror, to be chosen annually by a majority of votes of the stated meeting.

In order to obtain funds, which may be respectable and assist the unfortunate, each officer shall deliver to the treasurer of the State Society one month's pay, which shall remain forever to the use of the State Society. The interest only of which, if necessary, to be appropriated to the relief of the unfortunate.

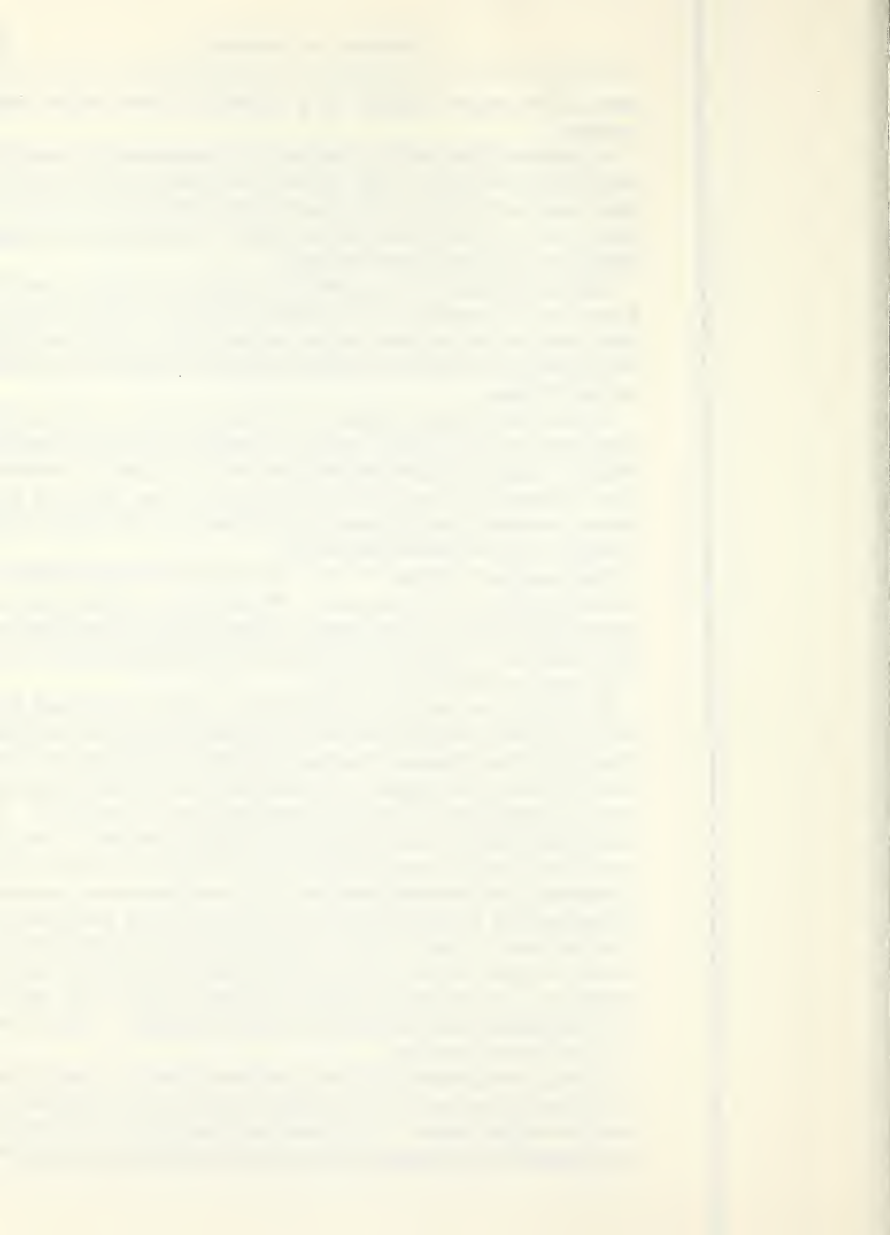
The Society shall have an order, by which its members shall be known and distinguished, which shall be a medal of gold, of a proper size to receive the emblems, and be suspended by a deep blue ribbon, two inches wide, edged with white, descriptive of the union of America with France.

General Washington continued President general of the society until the time of his death, and was succeeded by General Hamilton in 1800. General Cotesworth Pinckney, of South Carolina, succeeded him, followed by General Thomas Pinckney. Gen. Ogden, of New Jersey, succeeded him, followed by Gen. Lewis, of New York, Major Pophan, Gen. Dearborne, and others.

The Academy building to which we have also before alluded, is deserving justly of further notice. The site of the building has been already described. We are unable to give the date of the erection of this academy. It was built years prior to the revolution and was the *first academy erected in the county.*

Dr. Livingston and other distinguished men in Church and State are said to have received their early academic education at this place. For a time Rev. Chauncey Graham taught there, and during the Revolution Dr. Rysdike taught a classical school in Fishkill, as appears from advertisements in the paper published here at that time. The early organization of an academy in this place is worthy of being remembered, and the people of the town can recur with pride to this noble act of one hundred years ago. If the advantages of a classical education were so appreciated then, how much more should they be regarded now. Surely in this respect we have no reason to rejoice, rather to sorrow, at the decline of public interest in such laudable institutions. The academy building was sold eventually and removed to Poughkeepsie and the lesson is but too apparent. Keep always the best things for home.

Having now followed the more prominent features of public interest down to the close of the American Revolution, we shall not pursue the subject further. The growth and prosperity of the town, its agricultural, manufacturing, banking and other interests are made fully



apparent by statistics in other portions of the Directory. We shall therefore close by giving brief sketches of the more prominent public men of the town. This part of our subject might be very much extended by making it a subject of special investigation.

TUR BOSS.

One of the first, if not the first representative man in this part of Dutchess County, was Johannus Tur Boss.

This name has either been changed from its original or otherwise has now become extinct among us.

He is reported in the census of 1714, and had then a family of five children. He was at this early day a justice of the peace and owned lands about Fishkill Village. The ground upon which the Dutch Church is located was purchased from him. He was elected a member of the Colonial Legislature, from 1716 to 1725, for a period of nine years; is also spoken of as being Judge in old manuscripts, and died before 1735, over one hundred and thirty years ago. Was evidently a leading man in his day.

Jacobus Tur Boss, of the same family, and probably a younger brother of Johannus, owned lands about Brinckerhoffville. The site of the Presbyterian Church was given by him, containing one acre, upon the condition that it "be organized in accordance with the Kirk of Scotland." He was a member of the Colonial Legislature from 1737 to 1743.

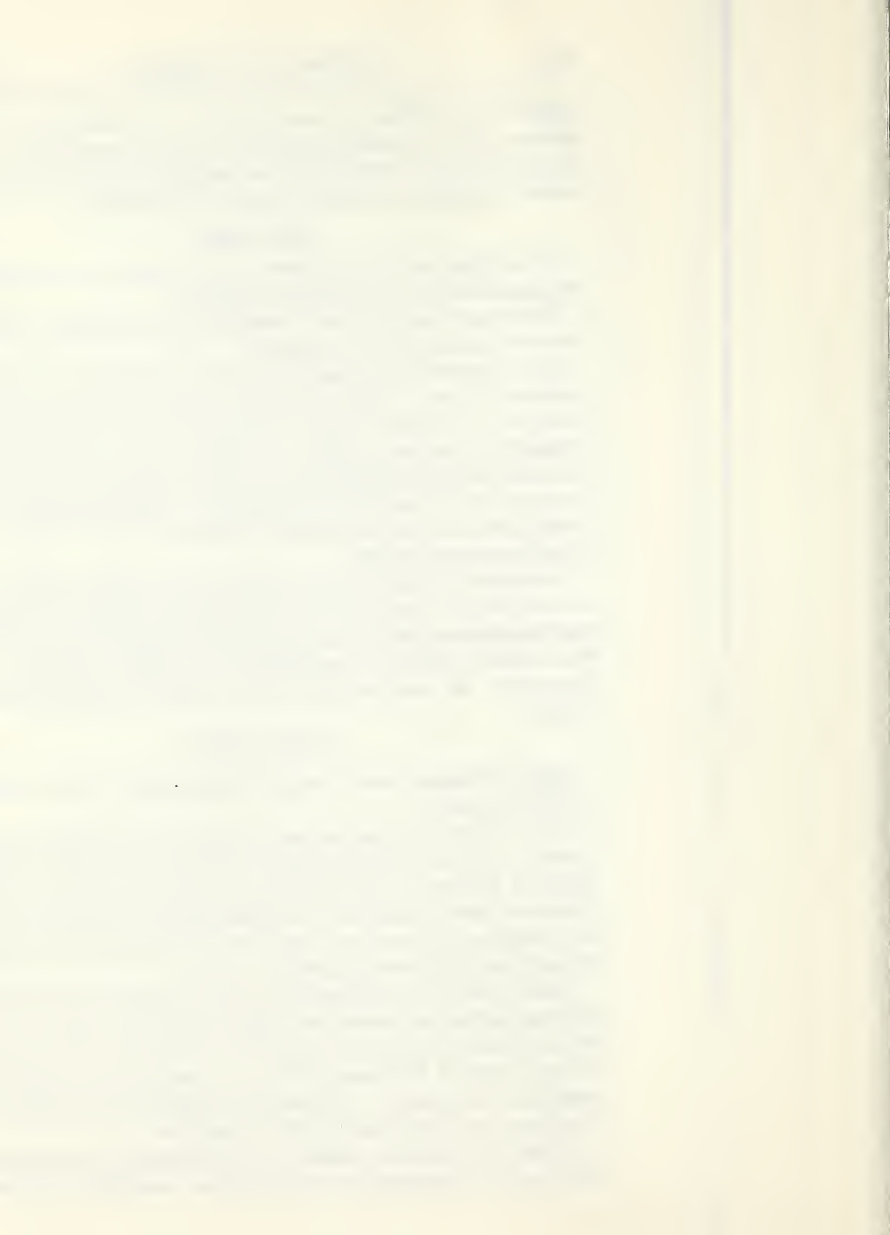
VERPLANCK.

Philip Verplanck was a native of the patent, a son of the elder Gulian Verplanck.

He was a surveyor and engineer, a man of great ability and attainments. Verplanck's Point is called after him. He represented the Manor of Cortlandt in the Colonial Legislature, from 1737 to 1764, for a period of nearly thirty years, and may justly be considered as one of the prominent representative men of the patent, though not representing any part of his native district.

Judge Daniel C. Verplanck was a native of the town of Fishkill, and represented the District in Congress, from 1803 to 1809. Was the father of Gulian C. Verplanck, of New York City, and elected Judge of the County of Dutchess in 1828. A man of much liberality and amiability of character. William B. Verplanck was member of the Legislature from Dutchess in 1796, '97 and '98.

Gulian C. Verplanck, though never representing his native district, still justly is deserving of a prominent place among the representative



men of the town. A member from New York City to the Legislature for four successive terms following 1820, Representative to Congress for four successive terms from 1825, also a Member of the New York Senate from 1838 to 1841. Aside from these positions of public trust, the productions of his pen have added even more than these to his well earned fame. His work on Shakespeare may justly be ranked among the choicest productions of our American literature. His lectures upon Evidences of Christianity, bear, too, the marks of the same classic pen.

He still enjoys the comforts of a ripe old age, and belongs to the men of a former generation who have added grace to American letters.

BRINCKERHOFF.

Dirck Brinckerhoff belongs to the representative men of a hundred years ago. Was a Member of the Colonial Assembly from 1763 to 1777, a member of the first Provincial Congress, Chairman of the Vigilance Committee of the town, and a Member of the Legislature from 1777 to 1787, Colonel in the Militia, and occupied other positions of trust.

In person the Colonel was of large size, and somewhat swarthy complexion. If not austere, yet decided in his favor or opposition. Kept fine horses and rode in what was then called a phaeton, a carriage with room for two and a driver, which was at that time considered a mark of some notoriety.

D. A. Brinckerhoff was elected to the Legislature of 1808 and '9, but beyond this we can give no further information.

Abraham Brinckerhoff was a Member of the Legislature in 1784 and '85. Was a farmer, and carried on in connection with this merchandizing and milling, and was widely known in the community in which he lived.

SWARTWOUT.

Gen. Jacobus Swartwout when a young man had served as a Captain in the French and Indian Wars, was a member of the Vigilance Committee of the town, and repeatedly filled the office of Supervisor. Was elected to the Legislature from 1777 to 1785, afterward elected to the State Senate, which office he filled from 1784 to 1795. In person the General was a fine looking man, full six feet high, and very erect in his bearing. As he grew past middle life, his hair grew gray, which gave him a venerable appearance. He wore green glasses, and was an inveterate snuffer. A man, too, of great physical strength and personal courage. When over eighty years of age would ride



away his wheat to the river, and lift his bag upon his shoulder with the ease of a young man.

A little incident better illustrates the man.' During the war of 1812 he was at the river when news came that some sad calamity had befallen our northern army. At which a young man present took occasion, at once, to rejoice. "Young man," said the General, then nearly eighty years of age, "I have taken care of many just such young men as you are, and if I hear any more of this," shaking his head at the same time, with significant emphasis, "old as I am, I'll take care of you, sir." He served in the Revolution, was afterward promoted General, and died in 1826, over ninety years of age, having served the people of his town in every position of trust faithfully and true. A man unswerving in his integrity, and upright in all his purposes.—The loss of such men make always wide breeches in communities.

Jacobus Swartwout, Sen., the father of the General, held the office of Supervisor and other positions of trust, but never attained to the eminence of his son.

ADRIANCE.

Judge Abraham Adriance resided at Hopewell, and carried on alternately both farming and merchandizing. Was in his day an active politician, and held in a large sense of the word the confidence of the people.

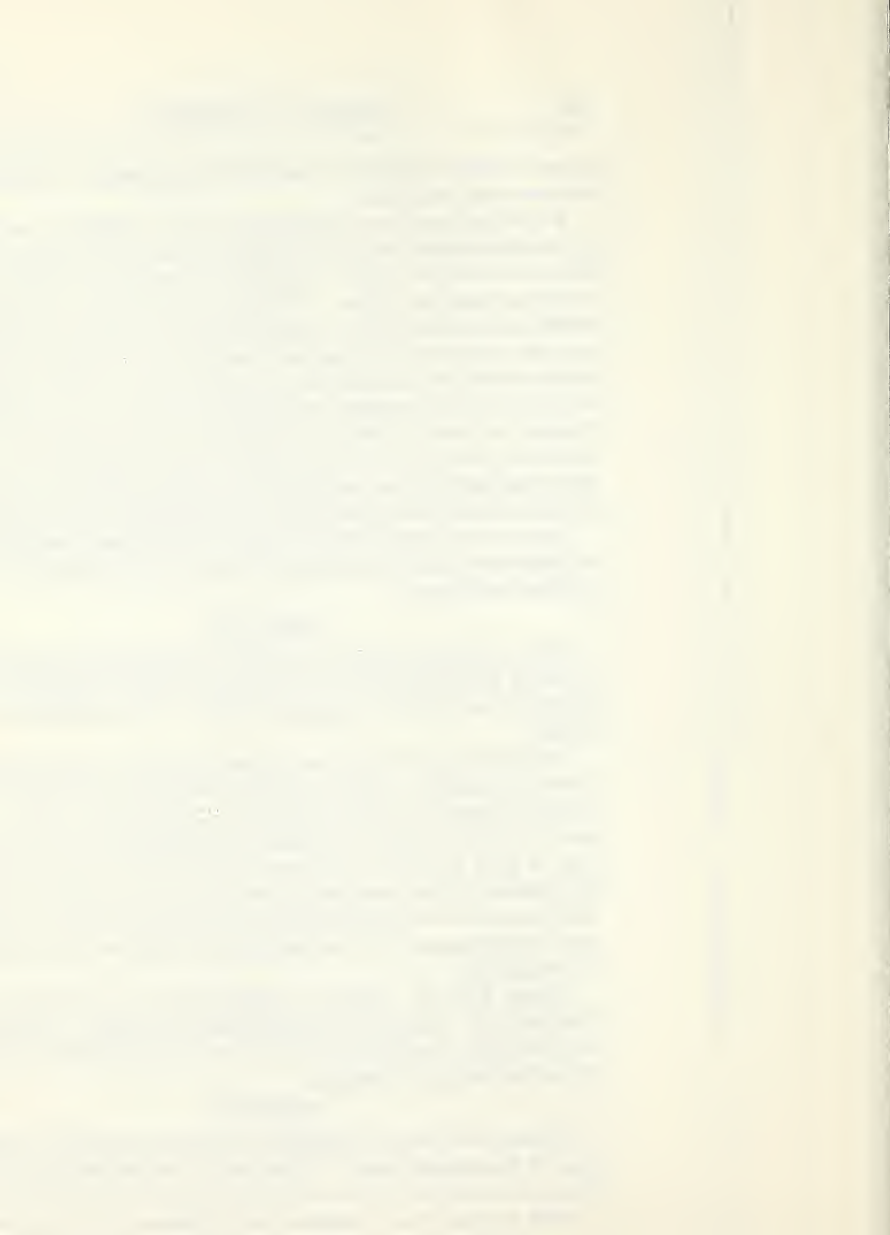
The Judge was a man of very pleasing manners and easy address. Somewhat portly in appearance, and withal very humorous, and aided the humor on all occasions by entering into it with a hearty good will of his own. Gen. Root, in speaking of him, said that he was as good a fogleman as he ever knew. He was elected to the Legislature in 1798, continuing a member of the Assembly until 1800. He removed to Poughkeepsie, and was elected to the State Senate in 1803, and continued in the Senate until 1806, and afterward was elected Judge.

Colonel Isaac R. Adriance is still living at an advanced age in Poughkeepsie. Has filled various positions in the town. Was elected to a seat in the Assembly in 1825, and has shown himself not deficient in sterling energy of character.

SCHENCK.

We freely confess our inability to do justice to the elder representatives of the Schenck family. The family is one of the old families in the town, mainly settled about Matteawan and New Hackensack.

John Schenck was a Member from Dutchess to the Assembly in



1777 and '78. Guysbert Schenck in 1780 and '81. Henry Schenck in 1791. Abraham H. Schenck a member in 1804, '5, '6.

In the Provincial Congress, Guysbert was member of the first, Henry, John, and Paul each members of the third. Abraham H. was also elected to Congress in 1815.

STORM.

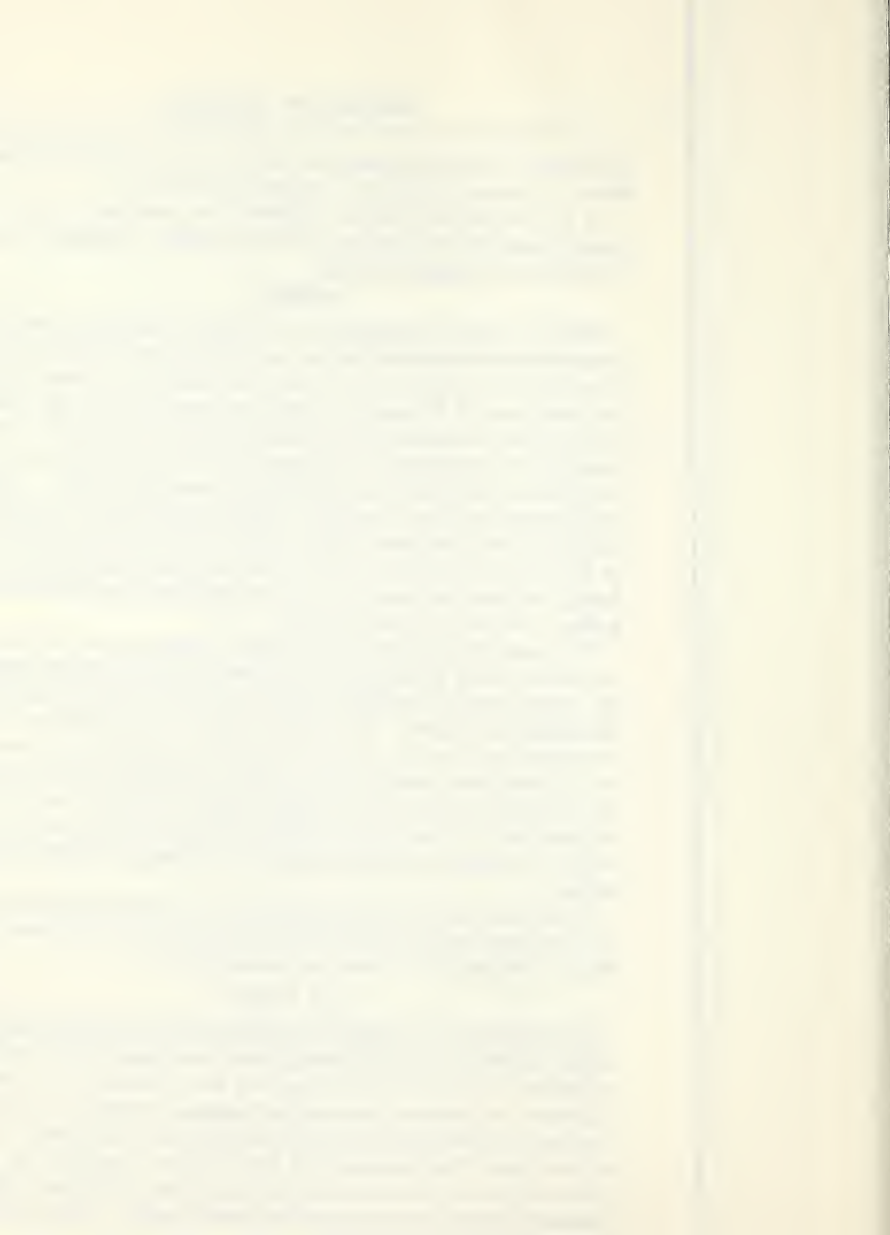
Thomas Storm, better known as a mark of distinguishment from other members of the family by the name of Esq. Tommy, was a man of much public influence in his day. He lived in the eastern part of the town, east of Hopewell. Kept a tavern-stand, with the attachment of a store connected with it, and was much in public life. Was a member of the Vigilance Committee of the town in the time of the Revolution, a Member of the Legislature from 1781 to 1784. Afterward removed to New York City. Was returned to the Legislature from New York City, from 1793 to 1803. Was twice elected speaker of the Assembly, and afterward ran for Lieutenant Governor of the State. He was a medium sized man, of pleasing manners and winning address, abounding in genial humor.

Col. John Storm, of the same family, resided on one of the old homesteads north of Stormville, and now occupied by his son Charles G. Was Colonel of the Militia of the town, and elected to a seat in the Legislature in 1807. If not filling conspicuously public positions, was nevertheless in a large sense of the word a public man in private life. Though but a mere youth he held a commission in the army of the Revolution, and was ever willing, zealous, and ready to serve in any good work. Was in the truest sense of the word a peace maker, and in this respect a public benefactor deserving of lasting remembrance.

Frank and undisguised in manner, and as manly in appearance, he truly belonged to the old fashioned gentlemen of the town, who were in truth and reality just what they seemed to be.

VAN WYCK.

Dr. Theodorus Van Wyck was a descendent of the first generation of the Van Wyck family in Fishkill Hook, and father of the late Gen. Abraham Van Wyck. After receiving the advantages of a liberal education, he prosecuted the study of medicine, making it his profession, and established himself in its practice in the community where he was born. Was a member of the Vigilance Committee, a very zealous supporter, fearless and outspoken in favor of the war. Was a member of the second and third Provincial Congress. This in fact is



only a poor outline of a character which has much to commend it, but we lack the all essential requisite, the material to do the subject justice.

Isaac Van Wyck was a descendent of the family at Fishkill Village. Was a farmer and in connection with farming carried on at times other speculations in grains. Was four times elected to the Assembly between 1794 and 1811. Was a medium size man, very social, pleasing and popular in his manners, and held in much respect in the community.

Theodorus R., better known as Judge Van Wyck, was of the Hopewell branch of the family. Was elected to the Legislature in 1803 and 1804, and afterward elected Judge. Had done service in the Revolution, of a hardy, robust constitution capable of much physical endurance. Somewhat reserved toward strangers, but very indulgent in his own family. Ever prompt in business, and upright in all his dealings.

William W., of Fishkill Hook, was twice elected from Dutchess to Congress, after 1821. Was a man of much public influence. A man too of much reading and general information, and filled his position with honor. After this he removed to Virginia, bought lands and carried on the farming business there, and always received the deserved and well merited respect of those with whom he came in contact.

Of the other members of the family, Gen. John B. was elected to the Legislature in 1816, Stephen D. in 1829, and Col. Richard C. in 1842.

HALSEY.

Samuel B. Halsey, son of Dr. Halsey, a long settled physician at Hopewell. Having received a liberal education, pursued the study of the law, and practiced his profession in his native town. Was elected to the Legislature in 1827 and 1831. Afterward removed to New Jersey and has frequently been elected to the Legislature in that State and filled the position of speaker.

WHITE.

Dr. Bartow W. White a distinguished physician residing at Fishkill Village, to which place he came when a young man from Westchester County. Dignified and courteous in his manners, he practiced his profession and received the entire confidence of the community to an advanced age. Was elected to Congress from this district in 1825, for one term and is yet well remembered by the community in which he spent his active life.

JACKSON.

Judge Joseph I. Jackson was educated for the profession of the law



and resided at Fishkill Village; but soon discontinued the law and turned his attention to agriculture. Was always regarded as a most safe and judicious counsellor. Systematic and methodical, combined with purest integrity of character. Not a breath of suspicion sullied his good name. Was a member of the Legislature in 1821 and 1822 and elected judge of the county in 1840.

DUBOIS.

Lewis was a member of the Legislature in 1786 and '87. Koert in 1810 and '11, 1820 and '21. Peter K. in 1842.

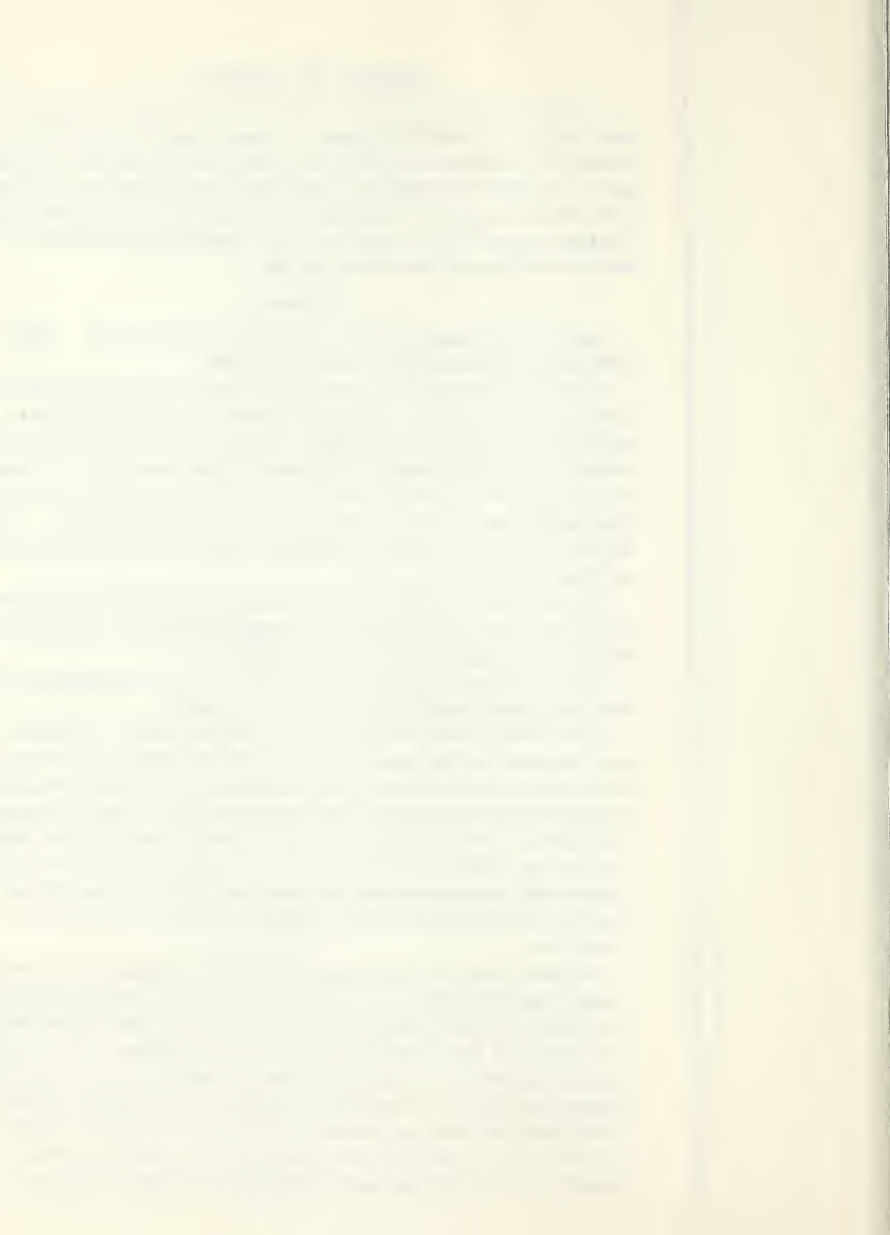
Of the other representative men of the town we can but mention a few of them by name. Isaac Teller elected to Congress in 1854, and still filling his position of affability. Dr. Theodore V. W. Anthony, elected to the Legislature in 1834 and '35, and now actively engaged in his profession. James Mackin of Fishkill Landing, elected to the Legislature in 1859. Self-made, persistent and energetic. John K. Myer a member of the Legislature in 1837, having filled other positions in the town.

We are quite aware that in now closing the sketch of the representative men some names may have been overlooked. These however can be readily added at some future period.

The sketch is at best but very imperfect; but is nevertheless the best that our limited material will permit us to make.

There always must be exceptions to general rules. We make but one, inasmuch as the man himself was an exception. He was not a representative man, had in all probability never held from the hands of the people any higher office than the office of Path Master of a country road district. Was not in fact a public man, if to do acts of public service only entitle to that distinction. If however to be widely known may favor some other purpose, then Burgune Van Alst was in no limited sense of the word a public man, since he was known by every one.

Burgune Van Alst, better known as Uncle Burgune, was a genuine Long Island Dutchman, somewhat coarse in his general appearance, with a jolly red face that told well of good keeping, and a keen red eye that sparkled like a gem in its own little dominion. Of the lower part of his person, his waist had been so much let out in its nether appendages, that it had long ceased further to exist, and just where the waist once had been, an almost perfect arc of a circle, as regular as the outline of a new moon was most fittingly appended. This, while it made a certain tilting back of the head necessary, in order to pre-



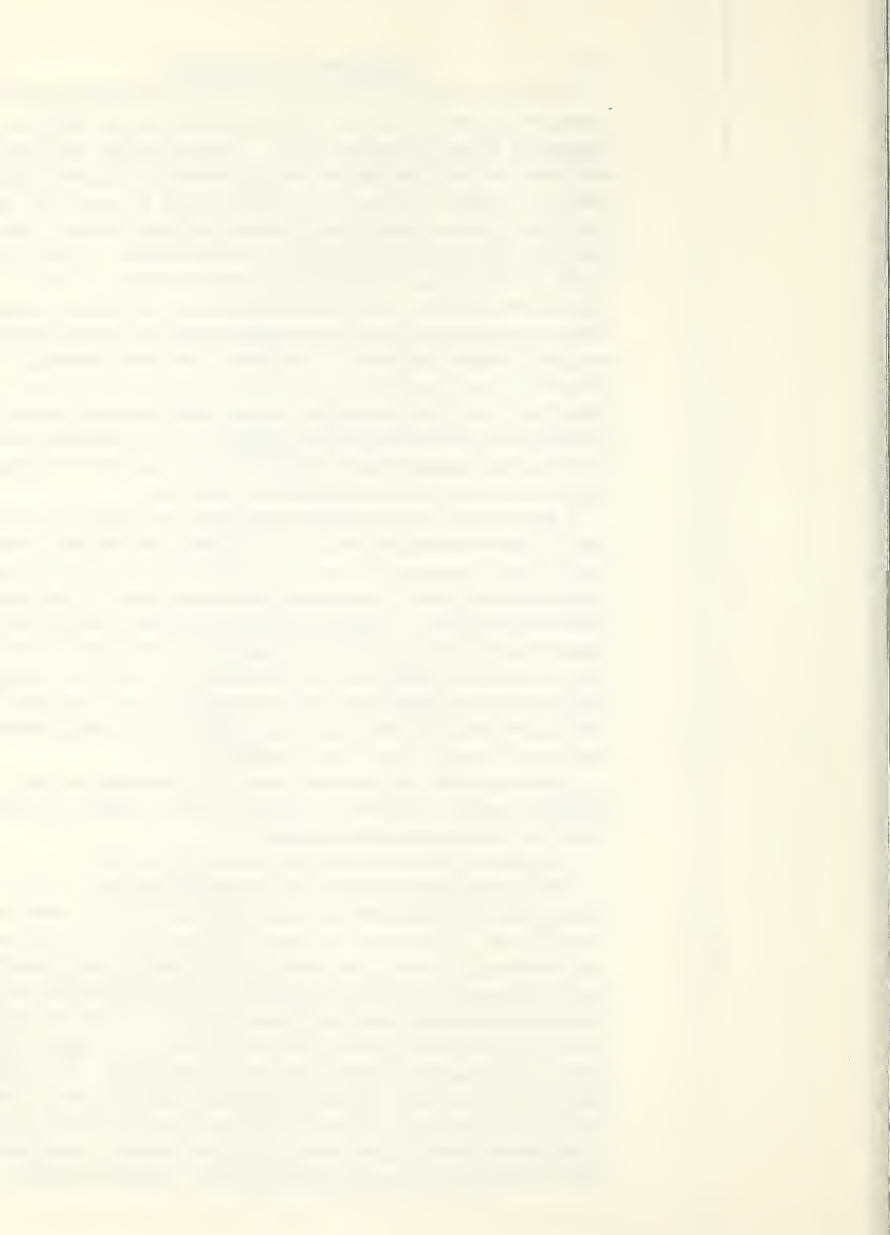
serve always the proper poise of gravitation, served also the other purpose of giving to gravity, mien. Just in fact the cut and figure of a man who could tell his own stories, crack his own jokes and never wimper a muscle. Of course then what Uncle Burgune said was always true, because being a large man he had large means of observation, and moreover was always well authenticated. Uncle Burgune could do some things which it were well to think of even in these days of Jehu driving—these days of fast horses, and faster young men. They may well blush, for all their modern Abdallas and Hambletonians are put to shame and grief by the horses and horsemanship of three-quarters of a century and more ago. He went to the river once upon a time, for Uncle Burgune said so, to take some butter of his own, and his neighbors, an office which he delighted in doing, and drove as usual his airy, fleet-footed blacks. Before he got near half way back, a shower came up, he said, as black as a black hat.

It was almost an even thing with him, for he hadn't observed it until it came right upon him. So he whistled to his blacks, and they started and those were the horses that could travel; for Uncle Burgune always insisted that it was a little the evenest race that he had ever had in his life time. Could distance any thing else, but this time just barely kept the winning lead neck and neck throughout. For when he got home the butter tubs had lost their lids and were swimming full of water in the back part of the wagon, and not a drop had touched him, *not one*. It was true, Uncle Burgune said, every word of it, and could be every bit of it well authenticated.

A little man by the name of Ben. Way, chancing to meet Uncle Bergune among a number of men, asked him whether he had ever heard of his success in shooting quails?

"No, never; and how many did you shoot, Mr. Way?"

"Well, now, since you have never heard, I'll tell you. I saw a large flock of quails running around a hay stack, and how to shoot them, I couldn't tell. There were so many of them and they kept running and running all through one another. So I took my old French musquet and struck it a whack across a log, and bent it so that I shot all around the stack and killed every one of them." "Well now, Mr. Way, since you are talking about shooting, I'll tell you what I did once, what I tell you *now*, is the truth, every word of it. You did a big thing, Mr. Way, a *big thing*, and I don't wonder at your wanting to tell of it. I was out once shooting pigeons, and they were so thick; I had nothing but a single barrel of my rifle loaded. Just then a big flock settled upon a long straight dry limb. The sat so close to each



other that they touched all along—clear out to the end of the limb. Well, sir, I drew up my rifle just so that I hit the centre exactly, and it split through both ways and caught every one of them by the toes. You should have seen such flopping and fluttering. I then loaded my rifle again and cut the limb off, and had just all I could do to carry it home.” As Uncle Burgune grew in years he enjoined upon his family that he must not be buried at Hopewell Church. “You must bury me on the hill behind the barn. I won’t *stir a step*,” said he, “if you take me anywhere else.” And it is said when the funeral procession started the horses balked, and many old ladies were slyly winking and intimating that Uncle Burgune was out holding the horses. Be this as it may, Uncle Burgune was the man who always had a reason for the faith that was in him. For he said he wanted to be where he could hear whether his black folks threshed or not, for they wanted a *good deal of watching*.

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